

PART THREE

**THE POINDEXTER FAMILY  
IN AMERICA**

**THE FIRST GENERATION: GEORGE POINDEXTER<sup>(1)</sup>**

Few families are more fortunate in tracing their beginnings in this country than the Poindexter family for two principal reasons: first, only one immigrant bearing that surname founded a family in this hemisphere before the late Nineteenth Century, thus obviating the usual confusion of persons and names of several early immigrants with the same surname; secondly, the background of this first immigrant in Europe and his arrival and subsequent life in Virginia are well documented. In the history of the family in Europe prior to its establishment in North America we have already mentioned the arrival of George Poindexter<sup>(1)</sup> in Virginia in 1657. Now, as will be the procedure henceforward, we shall attempt to treat his life more fully in the form of a short biographical sketch. (At the end of each of these biographies of our ancestor in the direct line in each generation we shall append the names of his wife and children often with brief notations for each person and often with a brief history of the wife's family following as a corollary.)

**George Poindexter<sup>(1)</sup><sup>2</sup>**

The immigrant American ancestor makes his first appearance in the baptismal register of St. Saviour's Parish in the Isle of Jersey with the following entry:

George filz Thomas Poingdestre filz Edouard Poingdestre le 23 De-

<sup>1</sup> As we did with the European family, we shall number the direct ancestor in each generation with consecutive Roman numerals beginning with the first American immigrant as (1). He is the eleventh European generation.

<sup>2</sup> Number 11 in the European sketch (Chapter I.)

cembre 1627 présenté par Thomas filz Thomas Poingdestre et Marie Effard. (George, son of Thomas Poingdestre, the son of Edouard Poingdestre (baptized) the 23 of December 1627, presented by Thomas, the son of Thomas Poingdestre and Marie Effard).

Earlier, in the marriage register of the same Jersey parish we find the marriage of the parents of this George Poingdestre: "Thomas Poingdestre et Elizabeth Effard le 14 Decembre 1614." Thus we ascertain that George Poingdestre (or Poindexter as we shall call him hereafter) was the son of Thomas Poingdestre, (x) seigneur of the Fief à Poingdestres, and his wife Elizabeth Effard, daughter of Nicholas Effard and Sara de Caumont (see European history of family).

Subsequent to the notice of his baptism, we have no official record of George Poindexter except that in Payne's *Armorial of Jersey* he is listed among the children of the above Thomas Poingdestre with the notation, "Settled in Virginia, N. A.," apparently copied from an earlier family record. It is rare that the American settlement of a particular family member was noted at such an early date in an European genealogy.

Tradition, however, fills in copiously (perhaps too much so) where records are silent. Although accounts vary slightly, George the immigrant was supposed to have become enamoured of a lady above his station (some accounts say beneath) against the wishes of his family (or hers). Consequently the pair were separated, only to be reunited later in Virginia. No known record exists of the maiden name of George Poindexter's bride, although it is often given as Nicolle, a Jersey name, but we know from various sources that her Christian name was Susannah. Although it is only surmise, she may have been the daughter of a courtier exiled with King Charles in Jersey, according to some early statements. We shall probably never know.<sup>3</sup>

Of George Poindexter's formal education we know little, but, judging from his later life, it was considerable for the period. We do know that his uncles John and Thomas, as well

<sup>3</sup> At the end of this chapter there will be appended a brief traditional history of the Poindexter family written by Dr. J. R. Poindexter. (ix)

as his brother Philip, were educated at Oxford. As a younger son, he undoubtedly did attend the excellent grammar school of St. Mannier in Jersey as did all his contemporary male relations. He was also doubtless tutored at home by his Oxford relatives.

It was at the height of the Puritan regime in Jersey that he arrived in Virginia in 1657.<sup>4</sup> The following land grant attests to his arrival:

George Poyndexter and George Thompson, 350 acres in Gloucester County at the head of Eagle Nest Creek in Milford Haven, adjoining the lands of Richard Long and Conglins; March 15, 1657.<sup>5</sup>

He seems to have settled, however, not on this land, but at Middle Plantation, probably in York County on the site of present Williamsburg.

On January 8, 1667 George Poindexter and Otho Thorpe purchased 850 acres at Middle Plantation from Edward Wyatt and wife.<sup>6</sup> This land constituted the exact area whereon the historic town of Williamsburg now stands. During this period he became a prosperous merchant and planter. He was a joint owner of several ships with Nathaniel Bacon.

We have previously referred to Susannah, the wife of George Poindexter. At a court held in April of 1673, a certificate was granted to George Poindexter for the importation of certain persons into the colony. Among them was Susannah Poindexter. Thus his wife joined him in Virginia at that time. Upon the founding of Bruton Parish George Poindexter was elected to the first vestry in 1679. The York County records mention a deed of gift from Peter Effard to his young cousin John Poindexter of a cow on April 1, 1664. Family tradition has it that George Poindexter introduced the first Jersey cattle into

<sup>4</sup> It is probable that George Poindexter was present with his uncle John in Elizabeth Castle in Jersey and that he went into exile after the surrender of Cromwell's troops, arriving that year in Virginia.

<sup>5</sup> *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. XIX, no. 3, p. 326.

<sup>6</sup> *William and Mary Quarterly*, (1), Vol. XII, p. 38.



America during this period. (Peter Effard was a cousin on George's mother's side). George Poindexter's name can still be seen on a memorial plaque in the wall of the present Bruton Parish Church at Williamsburg. After participating in Bacon's Rebellion in 1676, he removed to an area between the Pamunkey and Chickahominy Rivers in present New Kent County, about 1680. There about 1685 he built a remarkable house which still stands today (1975). Constructed of brick with timber frame, it was named "Christ's Cross" or "Criss-Cross" and was an elegant mansion for so early a period with great hall, several bed chambers, wine cellar and decorated Tudor tower embellished with various gothic details. It is one of the six oldest houses in Virginia.

In New Kent County George Poindexter was one of the founders of St. Peter's Parish (Anglican). He was a member of the first vestry, which met at "Christ's Cross" before the completion of St. Peter's Church in 1701. The well-preserved records of the church reveal interesting aspects in the lives of members of the Poindexter family. Slave baptisms and church offices held attest to their social position; baptismal records are helpful in constructing the genealogy. (Excerpts will be reproduced hereafter).

After serving as churchwarden, vestryman, and processioner, George Poindexter declined to serve again in the vestry on May 12, 1690, probably because of ill health. He probably died shortly thereafter. Susannah Poindexter was buried on July 15, 1693.

George and Susannah Poindexter were married either in Jersey or England before George's immigration in 1657. Two sons, John and George Poindexter, and a daughter Elizabeth, were apparently born before this date and accompanied their father to Virginia.

The following are the known children of George Poindexter (I) and Susannah \_\_\_\_\_:

- I. George Poindexter (II), born c. 1651 (for a continuation of this line, see later).
- II. John Poindexter (II), born c. 1652; married Katherine \_\_\_\_\_

by 1689 and owned 170 acres on Mill Swamp. No known offspring.

### III. Elizabeth Poindexter (II), born c. 1654.

Excerpts from the Vestry Book of St. Peter's Parish,  
New Kent County, Virginia

1681: Mr George Pinedexter Seneor: negroes born; one called Harculles ye 2 day of July 1681.

One negroe called Pollifemus a boy borne ye 15 day of August 1681.

One negroe girle Called Arianite borne ye 20 day of July 1682.

One negroe girle Called Jaseline borne ye 5 day of May 1686.

Sufanna daur of Tho Poindexter born the 6 ffebe 1696/7.

Elizabeth daur of Tho Poindexter born the 14 January 1699/700.

Sarah daur of Tho Poindexter born 12 May 1702.

Frances & Kate Negroes belonging to Mr. Geo. Poindexter bap febr 4th 1704/5.

1684: To: Mr Poindexter as a acct: for Surplice &: 2000: 6d nails.

as assignee

as Churchwarden

1689: George Poindexter Sr elected processioner.

1690: George Poindexter fined for refusing to serve on Vestry.

1705: Mr Wm Bafsett & Mr Geo Poindexter are Chofen &

Elected

Church Wardens & to act & doe therein accordingly from this time til Easter Next.

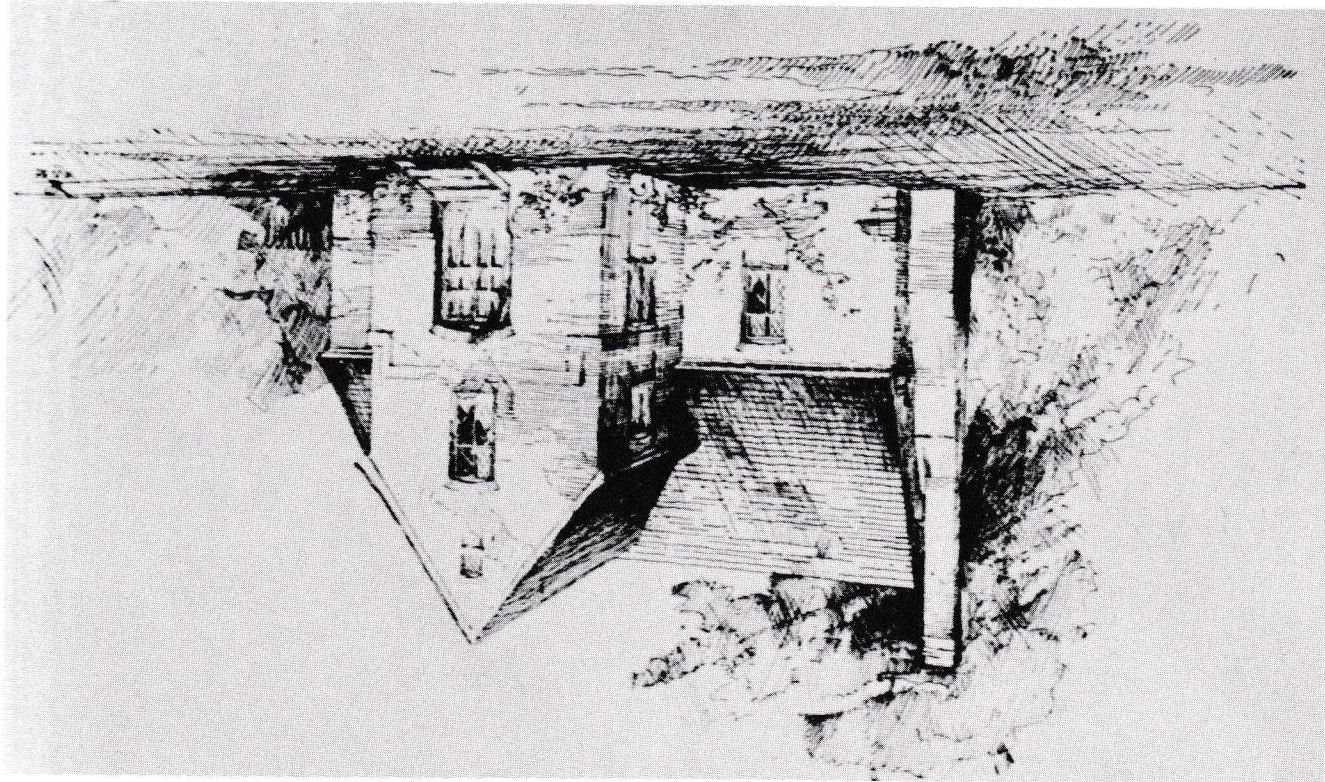
1706: Judith daur of Mr George Poindexter born ye 1 June & baptized ye 7 June 1706.

1708: Philip son of Mr. George Poindexter and Mary his wife Baptd Decemr: ye 26 1708.

1686: John Vaughan & Sarah Poindexter Married ye 5th day of Novemr 1686.

1716: George Poindexter Departe this Life March ye 12th 1716. Negroes belonging to Mr Geo Poindexter born 1711-1729. Jacob Poindexter mentioned.





"CHRIST'S CROSS," THE HOUSE BUILT IN NEW KENT, COUNTY, VIRGINIA C. 1685 BY GEORGE POINDEXTER (I).

Mary wife of George Poindexter dyed 1733.  
Slave died 1734.

1707: Whereas there is 5000 lbs. tobo C.C. Levied for Mr Geo Poindexter in part of pay towards ye plate & ornaments sent for by him for the Church's use upon wch he is to advance but 50 C. & to allow 10C. for ye tobo so Levied, its ordered he take the tobacco as aforeSd out of ye Collectors hands this year, & to Discount it when ye Parish receive ye things so Sent for:

Tho; Butts

Jno; ffoster

Geo; Poindexter

Wm Waddill

Tho; Mafsie

Wm Bafsett

1719: Julius Ceafer Son of Sarah Poindexter Born May ye 31st 1719.

1708: Mr. Geo Poindexter & Mr Wm Waddill are elected & Chosen superadvijors to se the fd Gleebe house Built etc.

1704: Mr Geo: Poindexter Vestryman 1704 et Pluries.

#### A Brief Traditional History of the Poindexter Family Written by Dr. J. R. Poindexter in 1946<sup>s</sup>

In the English Channel, just off the coast of France, lies the little Isle of Jersey—a French possession. Late in the 15th Century there resided on this island a family by the name of Poindexter and to this family was born a son, whom they named Robert—Robert Poindexter<sup>9</sup>. As soon as this boy, Robert, reached the age of manhood, he migrated to London. He dropped from his name the "esque" and became an Englishman, so Robert Poindexter was his name.

Robert was young, handsome and affable and soon acquired the friendship of nearly everyone who came to know him well. He had many admiring friends. Among these was a young lady

<sup>s</sup> This traditional history, composed by Dr. J. R. Poindexter (ix) in his later years, is remarkable in that, in spite of errors in names, dates, and other details, it is basically accurate—an example of the oral transmission of family history over a period of 300 years.

<sup>9</sup> The name of the immigrant was, of course George, not Robert—the name of the first ancestor in Dr. Poindexter's recollection.



of royal parentage (for convenience we'll call her name Mary). The mutual admiration of this couple soon ripened into one of mutual infatuation. The situation became serious. Mary's royal parents sternly opposed their marriage. For a person of royal stock to marry a commoner was disgraceful and not to be tolerated. Mary was stealthily slipped to a remote part of the country and placed in a convent to be kept under guard.

For a long time Robert made every effort possible to learn her whereabouts, but all efforts failed and he became discouraged.

In 1607, Captain John Smith has carried his first boatload of colonists to Jamestown, Virginia. The land was fertile, the country was free and its future that of a tremendous land of promise. Many other boatloads of emigrants had followed and among them, many young unmarried men, and young Robert Poindexter was one of them.

In the course of time Mary had met a young lady from outside the convent who had formerly been a student in the convent and frequently made short visits there. Mary soon made a friend of this young lady and unbosomed her troubles to her, and the young lady promised Mary her sympathy and assistance whenever an opportunity came.

Then came from Jamestown colony their famous tobacco advertisement appearing in all English papers proposing to pay 200 pounds of tobacco each for 100 young ladies to come to Jamestown as wives for the disconsolate young men.

Immediately Mary and her outside friend went into a huddle. Mary gave the young lady all her jewels to sell for money with instructions to arrange for secret transportation from the convent to the boat, and under an assumed name, to get her to the boat just as it was ready to sail. The plan worked perfectly and Mary rode the boat to America.

Robert of course was unaware of the intrigues that had taken place on the other side of the water just before the boat started. He was still despondent about Mary and not much interested in any one else to take her place. But not so with Mary. She had come because she expected to see him beside that gang plank. She was looking for Robert. And another moment, six feet down the plank, she spied him and screamed out, "Oh, Robert!" and as he looked up to meet her call she sprang off into his arms. And there is where all his trouble started. There was the beginning of the Poindexter history in America.

Robert and Mary were married and begat sons and daughters; and other generations of them followed in rapid succession. Many families of them were reared and remained in Virginia.

Many others moved out and followed new settlements as new territories were opened up for settlement. Several families went to Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi.

One William Poindexter, son of Robert Poindexter, moved from Tennessee to Louisiana, where he acquired much land and many slaves. He married Mary Mainer, and to them were born one son, Robert Lynn Poindexter, and one daughter, Sallie Poindexter.

Then during the days of Texas Independence, William Poindexter and many of his slave-holding neighbors in Louisiana moved in a group to Texas and settled in what is now Polk County, and known for many years following, as the "Louisiana Settlement."

William Poindexter married Mary Mainer, and following is their pedigree, only as far as this writer can remember it, or obtain it by correspondence.<sup>10</sup>

#### THE SECOND GENERATION: GEORGE POINDEXTER (II)

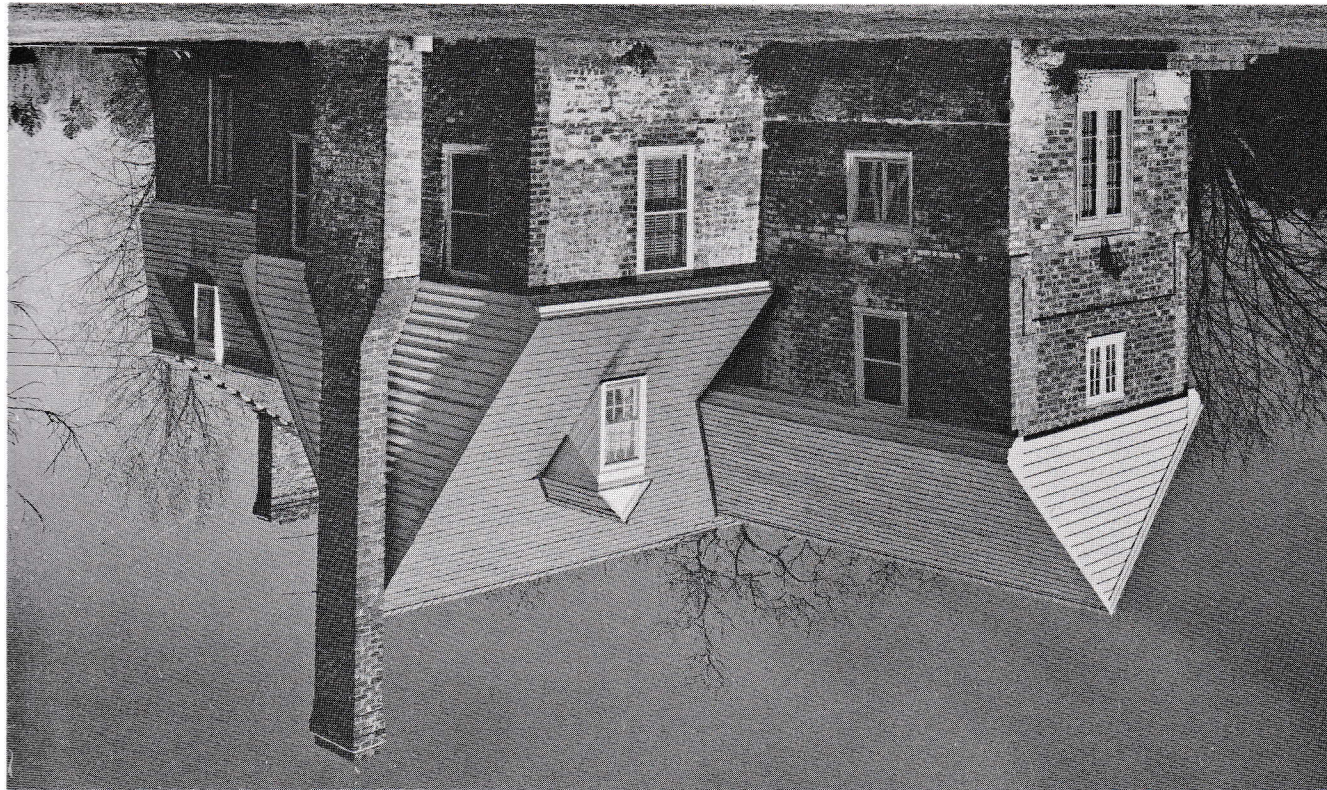
George Poindexter (II), the eldest son of George Poindexter (I) and his wife Susanna, was born, probably in Jersey, about 1651. He, together with his brother and sister, John Poindexter (II) and Elizabeth Poindexter (II), was brought to Virginia by his father in 1657. Living first on his father's plantation at Middle Plantation, (later Williamsburg), "George Poindexter, Jr." was by deed of gift presented with a cow by his cousin Peter Efford (or Effard) on April 1, 1664, as recorded in the records of York County, Virginia. Similar deeds of gift were made by Peter Efford in April of 1665 wherein he gave a mare to "his young cousin John Poindexter, son of his cousin George Poindexter, and another to his cousin Elizabeth Poindexter."

In April of 1673, as we have seen above, Susanna Poindexter, mother of George Poindexter (II), arrived in Virginia as recorded in a certificate granted to George Poindexter (I) for a headright, whereby he received 50 acres of land for each person whom he imported into the colony at his own expense.

About 1680 George Poindexter (II) accompanied his parents

<sup>10</sup> A brief list of the descendants of William S. Poindexter following this statement is omitted here.





"CHRIST'S CROSS" TODAY AFTER RESTORATION.

to New Kent County, where his father constructed "Christ's Cross," the manor house discussed in the foregoing biographical sketch.

George Poindexter(II) married, probably at Middle Plantation, about 1672, but the name of his wife has not come down to us, due to the wholesale destruction of the records of the area during the Confederate War.

The records of St. Peter's Parish in New Kent County, Virginia have fortunately come down to us, and therein we find several valuable references to the subject of this sketch. On May 4, 1689, "Mr. Poindexter, Sr., and Mr. Poindexter, Jr. (the latter referring to him) were made processioners of land by the vestry of the parish. On April 2, 1702, there is reference in the vestry book to "tithables in Mr. George Poindexter's quarter. On June 1, 1704, Mr. George Poindexter was elected vestryman, and was churchwarden in 1705 and 1706.

George Poindexter(II) died on March 12, 1716, and his burial was recorded in the parish register.

The known children of George Poindexter(II) and his wife were:

I. George Poindexter(III) born about 1673 at Middle Plantation. He married Mary \_\_\_\_\_, and had the following children:

1. George Poindexter(IV), married Susanna Marston. He continued to live at "Christ's Cross." His son, George Benskin Poindexter(V), married Frances Lightfoot and had Edwin (VI), born 1762; Robert(VI), born 1765; George (VI), born 1767; James(VI), born 1770; Lightfoot(VI), born 1772; and Armistead(VI), born 1775. By his second marriage, George Benskin Poindexter(V) had Parke Poindexter(VI), the famous "gentleman clerk of Chesterfield." This branch of the family kept "Christ's Cross" until c. 1820, when they removed to Rockbridge County, Virginia and later to Tennessee.<sup>7</sup>

2. Philip Poindexter(IV), born 1708; married Sarah Crymes.

3. Jacob Poindexter(IV), married Sarah. \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Judith Poindexter(IV), born 1705.

5. John Poindexter(IV).

6. Mary Poindexter(IV), born 1715.

<sup>7</sup> Miles Poindexter, U.S. Ambassador to Peru c. 1930, was a descendant of this line.



- II. Thomas Poindexter(III), born about 1675; married Sarah, daughter of David Crafford. (For a continuation of this line, see later.)
- III. Sarah Poindexter(III), born c. 1676; married John Vaughn.
- IV. Ann Poindexter(III), born c. 1677; married Richard Clough.

#### THE THIRD GENERATION: THOMAS POINDEXTER (III)

Thomas Poindexter(III) (mentioned above as II), was the son of George Poindexter(II) and his wife \_\_\_\_\_. He was born about 1675 at Middle Plantation (later Williamsburg) on his grandfather's plantation of 850 acres. He was taken by his parents to New Kent County about 1680, where his grandfather built "Christ's Cross." There he was educated and grew up. About 1695 he married Sarah, the daughter of David Crafford, a prominent planter of New Kent County and a member of the House of Burgesses in 1692 and 1693.<sup>1</sup> He was a son of John Crafford, who immigrated to Virginia about 1643 from the County of Kent, a member of an ancient Kentish family. In 1682 David Crafford had patented 1316 acres in New Kent on the south side of the York River. It later became part of Hanover County when it was created in 1720.<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth Crafford, sister of Sarah Crafford Poindexter, married Nicholas Meriwether (of another Kentish family connected with the Craffords) and was the ancestress of Meriwether Lewis. On May 21, 1691 David Crafford deeded 500 acres to his daughter Sarah. The quit rent rolls for the County of New Kent (later the portion which became Hanover County) for 1702 show that Thomas Poindexter owned 1,000 acres.

We glean much interesting and invaluable information concerning Thomas Poindexter and his wife Sarah Crafford from a deposition made by his son Thomas Poindexter Jr. in the suit of Snead vs. Poindexter in 1765. The following is a detailed quotation from the suit:

... according to deposition of Thomas Poindexter, son of Thos. &

<sup>1</sup> *Journal of the Virginia House of Burgess*, pp. 14 *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> The town of Newcastle is said to have been laid out on part of it, in 1744.

Sarah Poindexter, taken in a suit vs. Snead in 1765, he was 60 yrs. old. Since John Poindexter was the eldest son & heir at law of Thomas Poindexter Sr. he was born betw. 1702 & 1705. In the mentioned suit Snead vs. Poindexter in 1767 is the following: "John Snead & Susanna his wife & executors of John Poindexter & others Hanover Co., Va. 5 Nov. 1731 Sarah Brechin of St. Paul's Parish Hanover Co., Va. to her son John Poindexter for 64 L 10s 400 acres of land & three negroes Sarah, Nan & Bess, etc. The deposition of Christian Poindexter 1765 says, 'Sarah Brechin agreed to sell 60 acres in Hanover Co. which land was entailed to her (Sarah's) eldest son John Poindexter so Sarah proposed to her heir entail John that he sell all these lands & use 60 lbs. in the purchase of negro slaves which slaves were to be used by Sarah during her natural life & after her death to son John. John agreed to find & provide lands for the sd. Sarah which he did but she preferred to live with her sister Elizabeth Meriwether the reason for laying out the 60 acres for Sarah Brechin that she was so poor after the death of her 2nd husband James Brechin, John Poindexter built her a home & she lived thereon but was to his advantage to sell whole tract of which the 60 acres was a part." The Deposition of Thos. Poindexter taken 3/6/1765 age 60 yrs. sd he had nothing to gain or lose etc. Thomas Poindexter married Sarah Crafford, dau. of David Crafford of New Kent Co., Va. (Member of House of Burgesses). This suit states that David Crafford deeded 500 acres to his dau. Sarah on 5/21/1691 & that she intermarried with Thomas Poindexter & had issue John Poindexter & since intermarried with James Brechin. Then in the New Kent Co., V. Quit Rent Roll of Wertenbaker's "Virginia Planters," in the Appendix we find that the following had owned the land seven yrs. by paying the quit rent: George Poindexter 1400 acres; Thomas Poindexter 1,000 acres. Then in the Louisa Co., Va. Will Bk. #1, p. 27 of 27 March 1753 we find the will of Sarah Brechin—mentions nine children, John & Thomas Poindexter, William & James Brechin. Susanna Snead. Elizabeth Shresberry, Sarah Rice, Ann Rutherford, Jean Ireland, Thomas Poindexter & son-in-law John Snead, executors.<sup>3</sup> We then find in the records of the Council of the Va. Colony in Chapter 15 on 1st of Nov. 1733 & signed by William Gooch, Gov. & John Holloway, Speaker with John Randolph there is confirmed the entailed lands of Wm. Meriwether in St. Peter's Parish & Sarah together with the Poindexter names heretofore mentioned.

Thus we learn that Thomas Poindexter (III) and Sarah Crafford Poindexter lived in St. Paul's Parish, Hanover County,

<sup>3</sup> Will Brooks of Louisa County, Virginia, 1753.



Virginia, and that Thomas Poindexter was dead by about 1706 or 1707, when Sarah Crafford Poindexter was remarried to the Rev. James Brechin (or Brekin) and after which she had other children by him.

The children of Thomas Poindexter and Sarah Crafford were:

- I. John Poindexter, (iv) born in 1703; married Christian Gorsuch (or Gissage) (For a continuation of this line, see later.)
- II. Thomas Poindexter, (iv) born 1705, living in 1765. He was apparently never married.
- III. Susannah Poindexter, (iv) born 1696; married Snead.
- IV. Elizabeth Poindexter, (iv) born 1699; married \_\_\_\_\_ Shresberry.
- V. Sarah Poindexter, (iv) born 1702, married \_\_\_\_\_ Rice.

#### THE FOURTH GENERATION—JOHN POINDEXTER (iv)

As we observed in the previous chapter, Thomas Poindexter (iii) and his wife Sarah Crafford had several children. One of these was John Poindexter. (iv) He was born in St. Paul's Parish, New Kent County (later Hanover County) Virginia, in 1703. His father, Thomas Poindexter, (iii) died in 1706 or 1707, and soon thereafter his mother, Sarah Crafford Poindexter, married the Rev. James Brechin or Brekin, a prominent Anglican minister. (We learn all these facts from the suit of Snead vs. Poindexter of 1767, quoted at length in the foregoing chapter).

John Poindexter (iv) was probably educated largely at home by his learned step-father, the Rev. Mr. Brechin, for it is evident from the events of his later life that he had a respectable education for that period.

We discover through the registers of St. Paul's Parish that he was a landowner by 1727, for in that year we find the following entry:

At a vestry held ye 22d of August, 1727: Ordered in one prect the (processioning of) the lands of Colo Nich Meriwether, David Meri-

wether, William Flournoy, John Poindexter, Wm Meriwether, Wm Ford, Capt. Crawford, etc.<sup>4</sup>

By that date he owned his own land and was living near his Meriwether relatives. At about the same time he married Christian Gossage (or Gorsuch), the daughter of Richard Gorsuch and Sarah Shelton (see article on Shelton family later).

John Poindexter (iv) began early to acquire land in addition to what he inherited from his parents. On July 20, 1738 he purchased 400 acres in Hanover County on the southwest side of Poindexter's *alias* Piney Mountain and on both sides of Poindexter's Creek, adjoining his own land and that of Webb. On the same day he patented an additional 400 acres adjoining the preceding grant on the north fork of James River, and adjoining Dalton's land.<sup>5</sup>

On September 27, 1739, he bought 1,000 acres in Hanover County, adjoining the lands of Mr. Joseph Powell, Mrs. Barbary Winston, and Benjamin Brown, and adjoining Elk Creek.<sup>5</sup>

Finally, on August 16, 1752, he patented 400 acres of land in Louisa County, adjoining the lands of Mr. Spiller, John Kembrow, and Robert Hester.<sup>5</sup> Even the tracts listed above as lying in Hanover County may have been situated in that part which became Louisa County in 1742. Thus John Poindexter may have lived within the present area of Louisa before its erection as a separate county.

When Louisa County was erected out of Hanover in 1742, the county court was established. Justices were appointed for life by the Royal governor. The first page of the Old Order Book records this occasion, when John Poindexter, together with his Lewis and Meriwether cousins, was appointed a justice of the court:

At the House of Matthew Jouett, Gent., on Beaver Creek in the County of Louisa the xiii day of December in the xii yeare of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Second by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France, etc., King, etc. Anno Domini MDCCXLII

<sup>4</sup> Vestry Book of St. Paul's Parish, p. 271.

<sup>5</sup> *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, XIX, 3, pp. 326-327.



Present

Robert Lewis  
Ambrose Joshua Smith  
Richard Johnson  
Robert Harris  
Joseph Fox  
James Shelton  
Christopher Clark  
Charles Barret  
Thomas Meriwether  
John Carr  
John Starke  
John Poindexter<sup>6</sup>

"John Poindexter, gent." is also listed through the years as a vestryman of Fredericksville Parish in that locality. Thus, as his forebears had been, he was a typical member of the landed gentry of Virginia: planter, justice, and vestryman—a respected member of the community.

John Poindexter made his will in 1750, and since the contents reveal something of the life of that era, excerpts are given here:

... to my wife Christian, one large looking glass, six large chairs and six small chairs; one oval table, one square table; to son Thomas Poindexter (iii) the aforementioned furniture after the death of Christian; one bed and furniture; 200 acres of land; to son William 200 acres of land; to sons Richard and Joseph, a tract of 400 acres; one negro named David; to son William, one grown negro named Lender; to son Richard one negro man; to John Poindexter two negroes, Martin and Patty; to daughter Ann, one negro girl named Kate; to daughter Sarah, two negroes \_\_\_\_\_ and Lucy; to daughter Frances Anderson; two negroes, \_\_\_\_\_ and Sue and 20£, to wife Christian, two negroes, York and Lucy; one feather bed each to William, Richard, Joseph, Ann, and Sarah; to sons John and William, all cattle and hogs at Golden Mine; to sons Richard and Joseph, six head of neat cattle, 2 ewes and 4 shoats; to daughters Ann and Sarah, six head of neat cattle, 2 ewes and 4 shoats; all remaining property to wife Christian for life.<sup>7</sup>

Sarah Crafford Poindexter Brechin, the mother of John

<sup>6</sup> Quoted from *History of Louisa County, Virginia*, by M. H. Harris.

Poindexter, (iv) died in Louisa County in 1752, the year before her son, and left a will wherein she mentioned her sons Thomas and John Poindexter, to whom she left five negroes and mentioned land "from my father's (David Crafford) estate descending to me."<sup>7</sup>

John Poindexter died in 1753; his wife Christian Poindexter, died in 1779 and also left a will, wherein she mentions her son Thomas; the two daughters of her son Richard, deceased, Christian and Febey; her son William and his son William; her son Joseph, and daughters Ann, Sarah, and Frances.<sup>7</sup>

Thus we learn that the children of John Poindexter (iv) and Christian Gossage Poindexter were:

I. Thomas Poindexter, (v) born about 1730; died 1796; married Lucy Jones. (For a continuation of this line, see later).

II. John Poindexter, (v) born c. 1732; left Louisa County and moved to Bedford, later to Campbell County. He was father of Ann G. Poindexter, who married Robert Cobbs, and of Mary Poindexter, who married Charles Slaughter.

III. William Poindexter, (v) born c. 1734; married Margaret Children were:

1. William Poindexter, (vi) married Polly McGhee, 1791; moved to Kentucky.<sup>8</sup>

2. Peter Poindexter, (vi) married Lucy Arnett 1786; moved to Kentucky.

3. Charles Poindexter, (vi) married Sarah May 1793.

4. Joseph Poindexter, (vi) married Rhoda May 1803.

5. Sally Poindexter, (vi) married John Tate, 1799.

IV. Richard Poindexter, (v) born c. 1738; died before 1779; and left two daughters: Christian and Febey.

V. Joseph Poindexter, (v) born in 1736.<sup>9</sup> He served as a Captain during the American Revolution, after which he moved to Bedford County, where he married Jane Kennerly. He died in Campbell County, Virginia, in 1826. They had the following children:

1. Samuel Poindexter, (vi) married Ann Slaughter.

2. James Poindexter, (vi) born 1765; married Mary Thomson.

<sup>7</sup> All three wills can be found in the probate records of Louisa County, Virginia.

<sup>8</sup> William Poindexter, (vii) the famous silversmith of Lexington, Kentucky, born in 1792, was the son of this William Poindexter. (vi)

<sup>9</sup> Joseph Poingdexter, governor of Hawaii, is a descendant of this line.



3. Joseph Poindexter, (vi) married Frances Harrison.
  4. William Poindexter, (vi) died 1834; married Judith Thomson.
  5. Reuben Poindexter, (vi) moved to South Carolina.
  6. Thomas K. Poindexter, (vi) married Mary Kennerly; moved to South Carolina.
  7. John Poindexter, (vi) married Miss Chilton.
  8. Louis (or Lewis) Poindexter, (vi) born c. 1778; married Ann Smith.
  9. Ann Poindexter, (vi)
  10. Elizabeth Poindexter, (vi)
  11. Richard Poindexter, vi) married Miss Ford and moved West.
- VI. Frances Poindexter, (v) married \_\_\_\_\_ Anderson.  
 VII. Ann Poindexter, (v) married \_\_\_\_\_ Slaughter.  
 VIII. Sarah Poindexter, (v) married \_\_\_\_\_ Triton.

#### THE SHELTON FAMILY IN ENGLAND

Robert de Sheldonne and Guy, his brother, were in the train of William the Conqueror in 1066.

The first generation, however, from which we can trace an exact lineage is

I. John de Shelton, who held the Manors of Stradbroke and Shelton, as well as the Priory of Butley, in Norfolk. His son was

II. John de Shelton of Stradbroke, whose son was

III. Ralph de Shelton (d. 1245) who, although a younger son, became Lord of the Manor because of his older brother Nicholas' rebellion against King John. Ralph de Shelton married Katherine, daughter of Henry de Elleigh of Suffolk.

IV. Ralph de Shelton, son to the abovementioned Ralph, had sons Ralph, John, Henry, and Robert. He was succeeded as lord by

V. Henry de Shelton who held Shelton in 1270 and was knighted in 1276, and was succeeded by his brother Robert de Shelton, who had Alan, Ralph, Richard, John, Nicholas, Thomas, Hugh, and Robert. He was succeeded by his son,

VI. Sir John Shelton, b. 1280, who married (1) Maud and had sons John and Robert. He was succeeded by

VII. Sir John Shelton, who married Agatha, daughter of

Sir John Geddney of Lincolnshire; his son was

VIII. Sir Ralph Shelton, his second son, who was in possession of the Norfolk estates in 1315. He was succeeded by his brother Richard Shelton VIII, who had

IX. Sir John Shelton of Skelton Castle, Cumberland, succeeded by his son

X. Sir Ralph Shelton, b. 1315, who became lord of the manor in 1334. He was at the Battle of Crecy in the King's Company, as his Letters Patent of 1346 show. He was knighted there for having helped to save the Black Prince. This Sir Ralph Shelton used the same arms later used by the family in Hanover County, Virginia. He married Anne, daughter and heir of Sir Ralph Burgulion. He built Shelton Hall and the church of St. Mary at Shelton, Norfolk. He was succeeded by his son,

XI. Sir Ralph Shelton, who was 58 when his grandfather's second wife died in 1405. He died April 25, 1425. He was succeeded by his son,

XII. Sir John Shelton, who died 1431. His son was

XIII. Ralph Shelton, who became lord of the manor after the death of an uncle, William Shelton in 1479. He was knighted in 1485 and became Knight of the Garter in 1488. He was also High Sheriff of Norfolk. By his second wife, Margaret, daughter of Robert Clere of Ormsby, he had a son,

XIV. Sir John Shelton, who was living in 1492 but dead by 1500, when he was succeeded by his son,

XV. Sir John Shelton, Sr., High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1504 and knighted in 1509 and Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Henry VIII. He married Lady Anne Boleyn, sister of Thomas Boleyn, Earl of Wiltshire and aunt of the ill-fated Anne who married Henry VIII. She made her will on January 8, 1556. Sir John Shelton, who died on December 21, 1539, was given the grant of Carrow Abbey (built in 1146). Their children were John, Ralph, Mary, Thomas, Anne, Margaret, Gabriella, Emma, and Elizabeth. Of these, their son,

XVI. Sir John Shelton, the Younger, was High Sheriff of Norfolk 1522-1525. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir Henry Parker, the son of Henry, Lord Morley and wife Alice, daughter of Sir John St. John. This Sir John Shelton, who died



in 1558, aided Queen Mary in gaining the throne. He had Mary, Anne, Alice, and a son,

XVII. Sir Ralph Shelton, High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1571, knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1578. He married (1) Mary, daughter of Sir William Wodehouse, and had John, Ralph Margaret, Audrey, Alice, and Thomas. After the manor had passed to Thomas and John (above), it was inherited by their brother,

XVIII. Sir Ralph Shelton, b. 1560. He was knighted at Theobald's in 1607, and was minister to Spain, Secretary to the Prince of Wales, and was killed at the Isle of Rhe in 1628. He married (1) Jane West, daughter of Thomas West, Second Lord de la Warr and his wife, Anne Knollys, daughter of Sir Francis Knollys and Katherine Carey. This Katherine Carey, in turn, was daughter of William Carey (d. 1529) and Mary Boleyn (d. 1543) sister of Queen Anne Boleyn.<sup>1</sup> Since the Carey and Boleyn lines are Royal lines, they are outlined in a chart that follows this article. The De la Warr (or Delaware) line was also descended from King Henry III. Three brothers of Jane West (wife of Sir Ralph Shelton), viz. Thomas (d. 1618); Francis (d. 1636); and John (d. 1660), were governors of Virginia during the early Seventeenth Century. The son of Sir Ralph Shelton and Jane West was

XIX. James Shelton, gentleman, came to Virginia with his uncle, Sir Thomas West, Baron de la Warr, Governor and Captain General of Virginia, in 1610, and was a resident of Jamestown in 1620. He was a member of the Courts from 1619 to 1624 and is given in the "Partial List of Families in America Entitled to Bear Arms." He married Ann \_\_\_\_\_ and died in Bermuda in 1668. His son was

XX. Thomas Shelton, who owned large grants of land in Virginia and Maryland. He died in Cecil County, Maryland, where his will was probated 4 May, 1684, naming his son James Shelton as heir. An early deed refers to his wife as Hannah \_\_\_\_\_. Their son was

<sup>1</sup> A strong tradition maintains that Katherine Carey was actually the illegitimate daughter of Henry VIII and Mary Boleyn, with whom he had an affair before his connection with Anne.

XXI. James Shelton, died about 1716; was the clerk of York County, Virginia, from 1714 to 1716. He married Mary \_\_\_\_\_ and had

XXII. John Shelton, of "Currioman," Westmoreland County, Virginia, born in 1649 and died in 1706. He settled in present Hanover County, Virginia, and in 1670 built a house there called "Rural Plains." This handsome Jacobean house still stands seven miles from Richmond and is in possession of his descendants. John Shelton was a vestryman of St. Paul's Parish (where Thomas Poindexter and Sarah Crafford also lived) and is mentioned in the church records as "son of James Shelton." He married Jane \_\_\_\_\_. In his will of 1706 he mentions the following children:

1. John, married Lettice Ball.
2. William, married Hannah Armistead
3. Mary, married John Sharp.
4. Elizabeth, married Bryan Graves.
5. Sarah, married (1) Richard Gissage (Gorsuch).

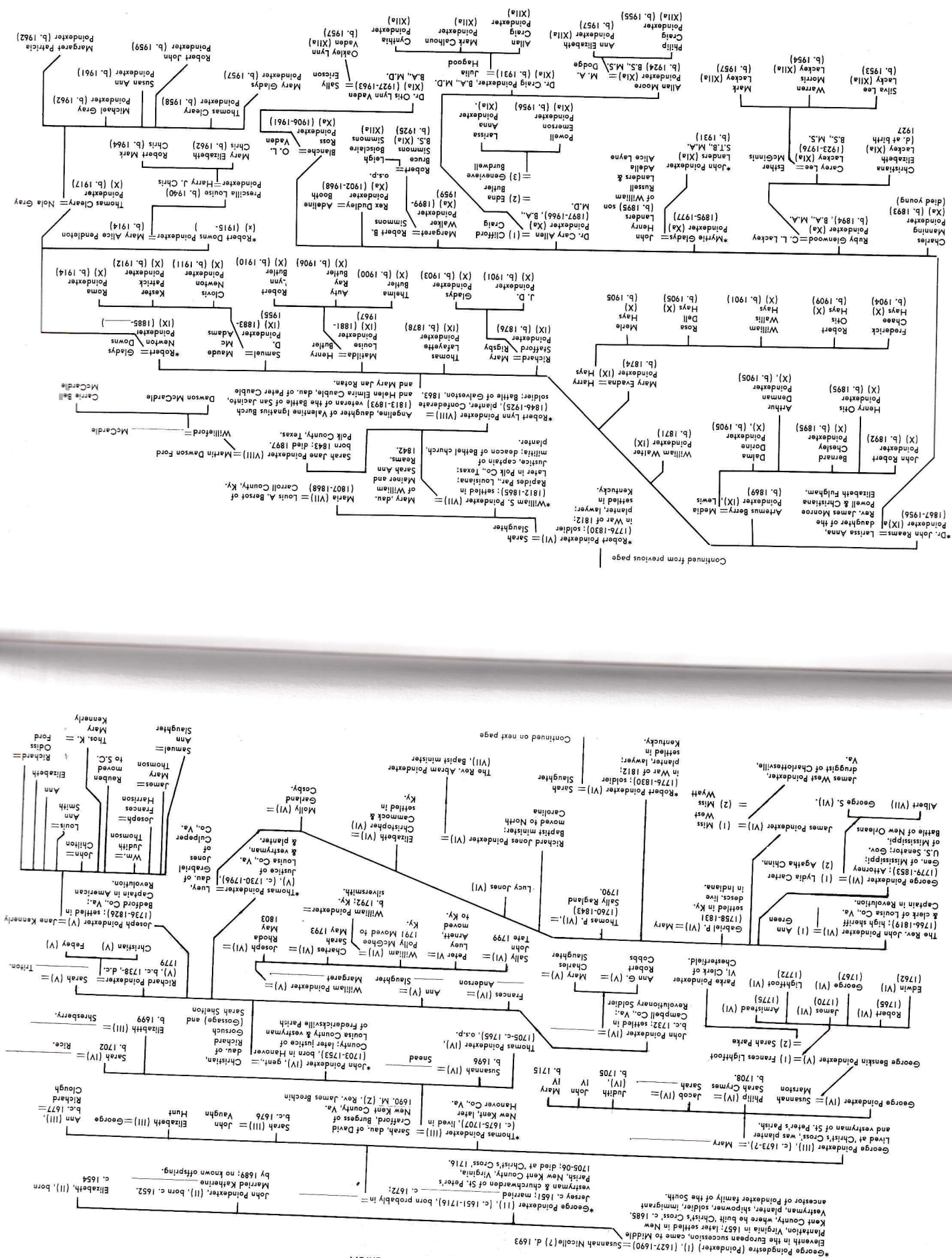
XXIII. Sarah Shelton (above), daughter of John and Jane Shelton of "Rural Plains," married first Richard Gissage, or Gorsuch, of the Lovelace-Gorsuch family of Maryland and Virginia. He was Justice of King William County and died prior to 1703; their daughter was

XXIV. Christian Gissage (or Gorsuch), who married John Poindexter(III) and died in Louisa County, Virginia, in 1779.

Thus we see that, through the line of Jane West, who married Sir Ralph Shelton (no. XVIII), b. 1560, all of the descendants of John Poindexter(III) and his wife Christian Gorsuch have a direct Royal line of descent from King Henry III of England through the marriage of Roger la Warre (d. 1304) with Eleanor, daughter of John, Lord Mowbray and his wife Joan, daughter of Henry, Earl of Lancaster, grandson of Henry III. They also have a direct Royal line through William Carey (d. 1529), a descendant of King Edward III, who married Mary Boleyn, (or if we accept the tradition of her daughter's being a child of Henry VIII, we have the same royal descent through him!) (See charts of De la Warr and Carey.)



\*George Poingdestre (Poindexter) (I), (1627-1690) = Susannah Nicolle(?) d. 1693  
Eleventh in the European succession, came to Middle





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COROLLARY

Although it may seem imaginative and far-fetched to anyone who has not studied medieval history and genealogy, it is not difficult to substantiate a royal line when a clear link can be made (as in the case of the Shelton and De la Warr families) with a member of the Court or high aristocracy during the Sixteenth Century. For many courtiers like the Carey family had close blood ties with the Tudors, and, through them, with the Plantagenets. Once that connection is made, it is an easy matter to trace the line back to Edward III, Edward I, or Henry III, all of whom had numerous non-royal descendants through daughters and younger sons.

More astounding, but no less true, is the fact that, once the line is traced to one of these monarchs, a direct descent is automatically established from their wives who represented all the ruling houses of Western Europe and beyond.

Thus the wife of Edward I (1272-1307) was Eleanor, daughter of King Ferdinand III of Castile, and through him there is a descent from all the earlier rulers of Castile, Aragon, and Navarre, to Visigothic (and even Roman) times.

The wife of King Edward II (1307-27) was Isabella, daughter of King Philip IV of France (1285-1314), and through him had a direct descent from all the Capetian Kings of France, as well as the Emperor Charlemagne, and most amazing of all, through Henry I of France (1031-1060) and his wife, Anne of Russia, from St. Vladimir, Prince of Kiev (980-1015) and his ancestor, Rurik, founder of the ancient Russian dynasty (c. 900).

If one were to compute the mathematical possibilities of descent from any of these historic figures, he would discover that there could be thousands of descendants from any one of these living today. The Poindexter descendants are fortunate enough to be able to prove their descent.

Accompanying charts will hopefully clarify these lines of descent.



PORTRAIT OF GEORGE POINDEXTER (VI), SECOND GOVERNOR OF MISSISSIPPI (1779-1853) IN OLD STATE HOUSE, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.



THE FIFTH GENERATION:  
THOMAS POINDEXTER (v)

Thomas Poindexter, (v) the son of John Poindexter (iv) and Christian Gossage (or Gorsuch), was born about 1730 in that part of Hanover County, Virginia which later became Louisa County. We know little about his early life, but he was mentioned in his father's will in 1750, at which time he inherited one "bed and furniture" (meaning bedstead and bedding) and 200 acres of land. The household furniture, including one large looking glass, six large chairs and one square table, was to go to him upon his mother's death. He is also mentioned in his mother's will of 1779.

In about 1751 he married Lucy Jones, the daughter of Captain Gabriel Jones (1715-1752) of Culpeper County, Virginia. Gabriel Jones was a noted lawyer of his day. His wife was Margaret Strother, daughter of William Strother. Gabriel Jones was the son of Richard Jones of Gloucester County, son of Richard Jones of York County (d. 1664).<sup>1</sup>

With the increase in population in Louisa County after the middle of the Eighteenth Century, the number of justices was also increased. The following list of leading citizens of Louisa was sent to the Governor at Williamsburg, who, in turn, appointed them and returned them with a general commission, dated December 21, 1763; the following men thus became justices of the Louisa court:

Charles Barret	Robert Anderson
John Carr	William Johnson, Sheriff
John Pulliam	Thomas Ballard Smith
Charles Smith	Nathaniel Pope
Nicholas Johnson	James Overton
George Thompson	<i>Thomas Poindexter</i>
Samuel Ragland	Robert Armistead
Cleavers Duke	James Meriwether
Thomas Johnson, Jr.	Waddy Thompson
Richard Anderson	William Phillips
Thomas Johnson	

<sup>1</sup> Richard Jones, the immigrant was a brother of Col. Cadwallader Jones of Essex County, Virginia and a son of Richard Jones of Devonshire.

In 1771 another list was approved by the Governor. This list included Thomas Poindexter, as well as his son, John Poindexter. Thus we see that, generation after generation, just as the family had held the office of bailiff and jurat in Jersey for so long, they continued to hold positions of comparable dignity in their county in Virginia.

Thomas Poindexter was later treasurer of Louisa County as well, for in a bond dated May 13, 1782 to Jaqueline Ambler, Esq., Treasurer of the Commonwealth, for ten thousand pounds, we find the condition that Thomas Poindexter, Gent., acting treasurer for the County of Louisa, shall collect and account for all taxes. Signed: Thomas Poindexter, Capt. John Poindexter, Sr., John Poindexter, Jr., William Trice, Samuel Cade, \_\_\_\_\_ Harris.<sup>2</sup>

Thomas Poindexter led the life of a prosperous and respected planter. On July 15, 1796, he made his will and died shortly thereafter. Since his will is recorded both in Louisa County and in Franklin County, Kentucky, it is not clear in which place he died. Three of his sons had removed by this time to Kentucky, and it is possible that he died while visiting them in Franklin County.

Here are excerpts from the will of Thomas Poindexter, made in 1796, as found in the probate records of Franklin County, Kentucky:

... to my son James Poindexter, two negroes, Phyllis and Martin, and one gun; to my son Robert Poindexter, two negroes, Tom and Ann and one feather bed and furniture; to my son Richard Poindexter, one negro wench called Nan; to my son George Poindexter, two negroes, Sally and Milly; to my daughter Elizabeth Jones Cammack, one negro woman, May, one cow, and one feather bed and furniture; to my daughter Lucy, three negroes, Hannah, James, and Jude; one cow and calf, and one feather bed and furniture; that the negroes sold for my life (i.e. hired or leased out) should be collected and equally divided among my children, viz., my sons Gabriel, Thomas, Robert, James, Richard, George, and daughters Molly Cosby and heirs, and to the Cosbys, one negro woman, Dinah. All my lands and household goods are to be equally divided among my children, John, Gabriel, Robert, Thomas, James, Richard, George,

<sup>2</sup> *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. XX, no. 1, p. 108.



Molly, Elizabeth, and Lucy. To my son Gabriel, one horse and plantation tools and one large looking glass.

Thus Thomas Poindexter bequeathed over 1,000 acres of land and thirteen slaves, as well as other slaves hired out (probably about ten others), as well as household furniture and plantation tools and cattle.

The following were the children of Thomas Poindexter (v) and Lucy Jones Poindexter:

- I. Rev. John Poindexter, (vi) high sheriff and clerk of Louisa County (1766-1819). He was a captain during the American Revolution. He married first Ann Green, daughter of Col. William Green; second Elizabeth Johnson, and third Margaret Maer of North Carolina. His children were:
  1. William Green Poindexter, (vii) married Jane Quarles.
  2. Nicholas Poindexter, (vii) went to Kentucky.
  3. John Poindexter (vii) went to Kentucky.
  4. Thomas Poindexter, (vii) married Frances Schooler.
  5. Andrew Poindexter, (vii)
  6. Waller Poindexter, (vii)

7. Lucy Jones Poindexter, (vii)

8. Mary Poindexter, (vii) married Garrett Quarles.

- II. James Poindexter, (vi) died in Louisa in 1843; married first Miss Wyatt; married second Miss West, and had James West Poindexter, (vii) druggist of Charlottesville, Virginia.

- III. Thomas Poindexter, (vi) born 1760; died 1843; married 1790 Sally Ragland.

- IV. Richard Jones Poindexter, (vi) Baptist minister, moved to North Carolina. His son was the Rev. Abram Maer Poindexter, (vi) a noted Baptist minister who died in Orange County, Virginia.

- V. Gabriel Poindexter (vi) (1758-1831), married Mary Swift and moved to Franklin County, Kentucky. His descendants live in Indiana.

- VI. George Poindexter (vi) (1779-1853); went to Mississippi in 1802. In 1803 he was appointed Attorney General of the Territory by Jefferson. He was an aide to General Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans and a territorial delegate to Congress from 1807 to 1813. From 1813 to 1817 he was U. S. District Judge. He was the second governor of Mississippi, from 1819 to 1821 and was one of the main writers of the state constitution. He also formulated the code of laws still used in Mississippi and called "Poindexter's Code." He was U. S. Senator

from Mississippi from 1831 to 1835. He is buried at Jackson, Mississippi.<sup>3</sup>

- VII. Lucy Jones Poindexter, (vi)

- VIII. Robert Poindexter (vi) (1776-1830) (for a continuation of this line, see later).

- IX. Elizabeth Poindexter, (vi) married Christopher Cammack and settled in Franklin County, Kentucky.

- X. Molly Poindexter, (vi) married Garland Cosby.

<sup>3</sup> See Mack Swearingen, *The Early Life of George Poindexter* (New Orleans 1924)

#### THE SIXTH GENERATION: ROBERT POINDEXTER (vi)

Robert Poindexter, (vi) the son of Thomas Poindexter (v) and Lucy Jones, was born in Louisa County, Virginia, on December 22, 1776.<sup>1</sup> He grew up and was educated on his father's plantation.

<sup>1</sup> Bible records of William S. Poindexter.

During his youth, in about 1790, he migrated to Franklin County, Kentucky, in the company of his elder brother, Gabriel Poindexter. His father may have accompanied his two sons, or may have been visiting them in Kentucky at the time of his death in 1796.<sup>2</sup> These members of the Poindexter family were a part of the great exodus of Virginia families over the Appalachian Mountains after the Revolution. Franklin County, Kentucky, where they settled, was the heart of the "Bluegrass" region, and a highly fertile and prosperous region which soon rivaled Virginia in wealth and cultivation. Other members of the family, e.g. Peter Poindexter and William Poindexter, cousins of the aforementioned, settled nearby in Lexington, while others moved to Tennessee and established homes there.

In early life, probably under the influence of his elder brother, John, Robert Poindexter left the Anglican Church of his forebears and became an ardent Baptist. This phenomenon was occurring everywhere in the South at a time when the Anglican Church was discredited and impoverished because

<sup>2</sup> In his father's will of 1796 Robert received two negroes, a feather bed and furniture, and an heir's equal part of land (about 200 acres).



of its ties with Britain. Practically all the members of the family joined him and were to become leading pillars of that persuasion for generations to come.

Robert Poindexter was probably a lawyer like so many of his relatives and was reported to have been a "trusted friend and advisor of Henry Clay."<sup>3</sup> He was also a Bluegrass planter for most of his life. He married Sarah Slaughter sometime after his arrival in Kentucky. The Slaughter family had also come to Kentucky from Virginia.<sup>4</sup> On October 23, 1800, he appraised the estate of James Bledsoe of Franklin County.

On January 20, 1806, he is mentioned in the records of Franklin County as having been appointed to the road committee. From an early age he was active in military pursuits. In the Expenditures of the State of Kentucky in 1792 and 1793, Ledger A, p. 167, a detachment was ordered to guard the Iron Works under Lieutenant John Huff for one month beginning November 19, 1792, Ninth and 23rd Regiments of militia. Private Robert Poindexter drew 19 shillings and 6 pence for his services there. On page 170, 6 a of the ledger, Private Robert Poindexter drew 19 shillings and 6 pence under Lieutenant Nathaniel Saunders of Fayette in command of the Ninth Regiment on April 29, 1793, for one month of guard duty at the Iron Works. He served in seven campaigns of the War of 1812 and was twice wounded.<sup>5</sup> He was First Sergeant of Captain Archibald Morrison's Company of Infantry, 13th Regiment, Kentucky Militia, from March 29, 1813, to September 29, 1813.<sup>6</sup> He may have served elsewhere also.

By his first wife Robert Poindexter had at least two children, Maria Poindexter,<sup>6</sup> and William S. Poindexter.<sup>6</sup> He was married again on May 12, 1814, to Sally Watson,<sup>7</sup> and may have had other children by this union.

Robert Poindexter died about 1830, probably in Kentucky, and did not leave a will.

<sup>3</sup> *Perrin's History of Kentucky* (Sixth Edition), under "Louis Bersot."

<sup>4</sup> Bible Records of William G. Poindexter.

<sup>5</sup> Dudley's *Kentucky Militia*.

<sup>6</sup> *Perrin's History of Kentucky* (Sixth Edition), under "Louis Bersot."

<sup>7</sup> Marriage Records of Franklin County, Kentucky.

The known offspring of Robert Poindexter (vi) were:

- I. Maria Poindexter, (vii) born about 1807, who married Louis A. Bersot of Carroll County, and died in 1868.
- II. William S. Poindexter, (vii) born February 9, 1812. (For a continuation of this line, see later.)

# THE SEVENTH GENERATION: WILLIAM S. POINDEXTER (vii)

William S. Poindexter, (vii) the son of Robert Poindexter, and Sarah Slaughter (vi) was born in Franklin County, Kentucky, on February 9, 1812.<sup>1</sup> In addition to the customary tutoring that he obtained on his father's plantation, he probably had some advanced schooling in Frankfort or Lexington, as his writings and later life evince.

During his youth he moved to Tennessee, where he remained until about 1835, when he migrated to Louisiana and settled near Cheneyville, in Rapides Parish. There he became a successful planter and an active member of the Baptist church in a community settled largely by Baptists from South Carolina. On October 5, 1842, he married Mary Mathilda Mainer, the widow of Adam McCrory of St. Landry Parish,<sup>2</sup> and daughter of William Mainer and Sarah Ann Reams of that Parish. (For further information concerning the Mainer and Reams families, see the sketch following this chapter.)

In 1844 William S. Poindexter accompanied other settlers from Rapides and St. Landry Parishes on a journey westward along the Opelousas Trace to the present area of Polk County, Texas. There, in the northwestern part of the county on a bluff above the fertile bottomland of the Trinity River, these families established a community which they named the Louisiana Settlement, or later Colita, in honor of a Coushatta Indian chief who had befriended the Texans in their struggle with Mexico. At Colita, William S. Poindexter established a plan-

<sup>1</sup> Bible record of William S. Poindexter. Tombstone record, Mainer family cemetery, Colita, Polk County, Texas.

<sup>2</sup> Marriage records of St. Landry Parish, Opelousas, Louisiana.



tation and built a temporary house with the help of his slaves and Mainer, Marsh, and Callaham relatives. After several trips there and back, he brought his wife and children to Colita from Louisiana to his newly established home, late in 1846.<sup>3</sup>

The planters of Colita were prosperous and enlightened, typifying the courageous gentry who had settled the Southeast. They soon established Colita Academy, one of the first educational institutions in Southeast Texas.

In January of 1849<sup>4</sup> William S. Poindexter was one of the founders of Bethel Baptist Church at Colita. He was a deacon of this congregation as he had been in Louisiana, and was elected clerk *pro tem* at the founding. As a consequence, the early records and constitutions of the church were composed by him and written in his hand. They reveal culture and ease of expression, as well as precision. On November 20, 1847 W. S. Poindexter purchased from the estate of his deceased step-father-in-law, Nicholas Calliham, one negro boy, Daniel, for \$130, and two volumes of books and one large map for \$5.62. He and his wife are mentioned as heirs to the estate.<sup>5</sup>

In February of 1849 the Commissioners Court appointed W. S. Poindexter overseer of roads for precinct 3 of Polk County.<sup>6</sup> On May 5, 1849 William S. Poindexter, on a bond of \$500, took the oath prescribed for the justice of the peace, since he had been elected justice of the peace for precinct number two of Polk County on the 20th day of April, 1849.<sup>6</sup> Thus, in the tradition of his forebears for generations, he was a justice of the county court and a leader in his church.

During the May term of 1849<sup>6</sup> the Commissioner's Court of Polk County appointed him captain of a militia company of patrol for his precinct.<sup>7</sup> Such patrols were common in the Antebellum South and served as law enforcement agencies, particu-

<sup>3</sup> The author owns a bed which was brought from Louisiana to Texas by W. S. Poindexter and Mary Mainer in 1846.

<sup>4</sup> Minute book of Bethel Baptist Church, Polk County, Texas.

<sup>5</sup> Probate Book A, Polk County, Texas.

<sup>6</sup> Records of Polk County, Texas.

<sup>7</sup> Under his command were among others, William Mainer, John Marsh, Peter de la Fosse, William Tipton, and James Marsh.

larly concerning the conduct of slaves. As a result of these positions, he was often referred to as "Judge Poindexter," or Captain Poindexter."

William S. Poindexter was a charter member of the Texas Baptist Convention and was elected as a delegate to the conventions of 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, and 1854. He was one of the early supporters of Baylor University as well.

After settling there, he purchased land in the Hiram Watts league in 1851, and became a successful planter. He eventually owned 850 acres and a handsome house. The United States Census of 1860 listed him as possessed of eight slaves; personal property amounting to \$18,000; and real estate amounting to \$6,500. A state census of 1861 states that he owned six horses worth \$450; 25 cattle worth \$125; ten sheep worth \$30; four oxen at \$80; and a wagon, as well as the above property. He was a skilled cabinet maker, according to family tradition, and a receipt made upon the death of a relative in 1848 bears this out. He was credited from the proceeds of her estate for having constructed her coffin. According to the recollections of descendants, the permanent plantation home built by William S. Poindexter about 1851 was a frame storey-and-a-half structure, with a gallery along the front and tall brick chimneys at either end. The "six over six" paned windows were furnished with green blinds, and the house stood in a grove of live oak and pecan trees. Nothing remains on the site today (1975). He also gave the land whereon the original Bethel Church was built, as a deed made by his heirs after his death confirmed.

The records of Bethel Church state on February 28, 1857, that a committee with William Poindexter as moderator was to build "a new meeting house on the opposite side of the public road from the old house—framed and weatherboarded and covered with two foot heart pine boards." The black congregation was to sit behind. It was to have "glass windows and shutters." (The cypress pews out of this church are still used in the present Bethel Church, built c. 1900.)

On January 8, 1858 the Rev. Thomas R. McCrory was ordained to the ministry by the presbytery. He was a step-son of William S. Poindexter and the son of his wife Mary Mainer



McCrory Poindexter, by her first husband. "Coloured" members of the congregation at this time belonging to William Poindexter were Charlotte, Nelson, and Jinny.<sup>8</sup>

William S. Poindexter died on September 14, 1865,<sup>9</sup> worn out, no doubt, by the trials of the War Between the States, in which his son, Robert Lynn took part as a Confederate soldier. He was buried in the Mainer family cemetery at Colita. (When last visited by the author about 1958, this cemetery, though overgrown and abandoned, was still beautiful, with graves built up in brick in the Louisiana fashion, completely covered by a canopy of oaks, cedars, and crepe myrtles festooned with Spanish moss. The slaves, also named Mainer and Poindexter, were buried in the same cemetery across the central path. One old ex-slave, Noe Mainer, tended the cemetery until his death in 1953). Mary M. Poindexter was appointed administratrix of his estate on March 27th, 1866. Mary M. Poindexter died on December 17, 1899, and is buried in the old cemetery at Livingston, Polk County, Texas. Myrtie Poindexter Landers, a great grand-daughter of William S. and Mary M. Poindexter, recalls seeing Mary Mainer Poindexter as a very old lady. A recollection of this event, written in 1959 by Mrs. Landers, recreates the picture vividly:

I, Myrtie Gladys Poindexter Landers, met my great grandmother Poindexter, née Mary Mainer, in Lufkin, Texas, when I was about four years of age.<sup>10</sup> My mother took me along when she was visiting my great grandmother; consequently I was an onlooker and listener. My great grandmother was of diminutive size, dressed in a simple black dress with white collar, a quaint black lawn cap with ruffle of white embroidery lace. I was enamoured of both her quaint speech and dress. She was truly ante bellum.

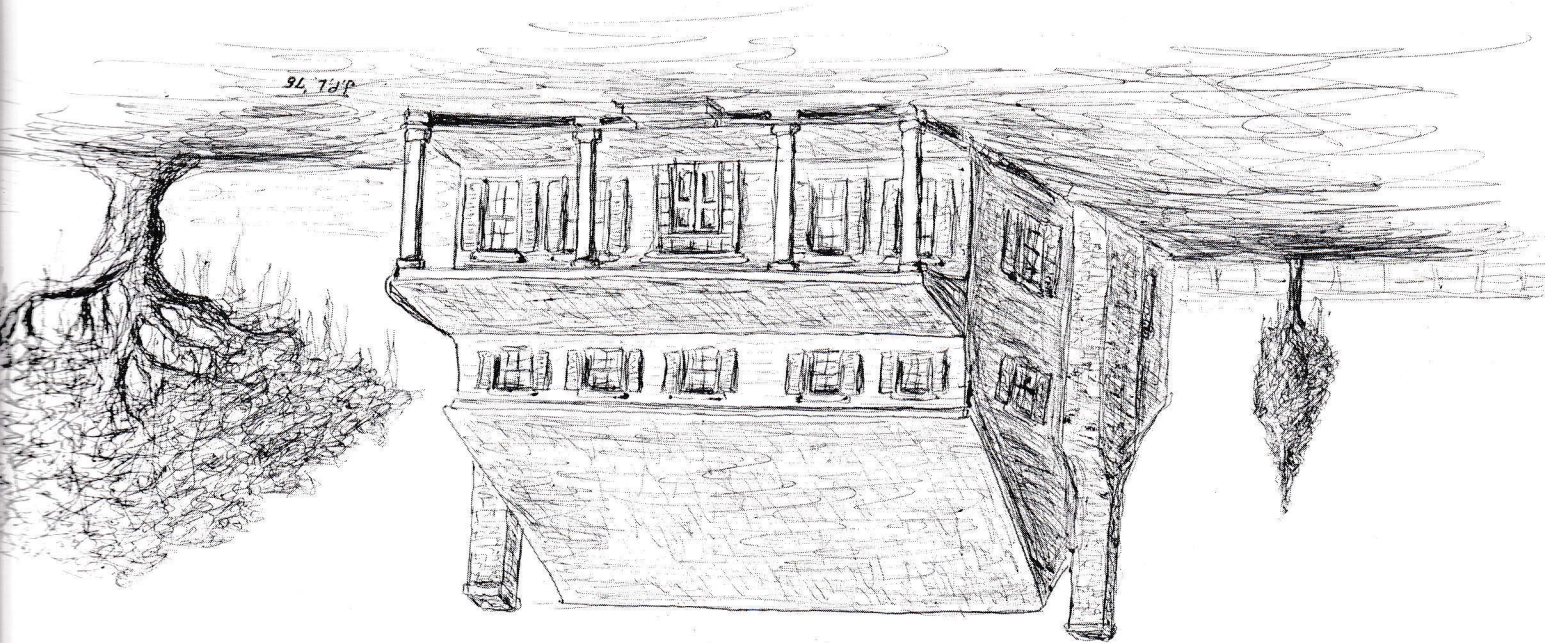
The children of William S. Poindexter (vii) and his wife, Mary Mathilda Mainer Poindexter were

I. Sarah Jane Poindexter, (viii) born July 24, 1843 in Rapides

<sup>8</sup> All the above references are taken from the minutes of Bethel Church, Polk County, Texas.

<sup>9</sup> Tombstone record in Mainer Cemetery, Colita, Polk County, Texas.

<sup>10</sup> 1899.



PLANTATION HOME OF WILLIAM S. POINDEXTER (VII) AT COLITA, POLK COUNTY, TEXAS, BUILT 1851.



Parish, Louisiana. She married Martin Dawson Ford, and had one daughter, Willie Ford,<sup>(ix)</sup> who married McCardell and had two children: Carrie Bell McCardell and Dawson McCardell of Camilla, Texas. Sarah Jane Poindexter Ford died on March 16, 1897, at Livingston, Texas.

II. Robert Lynn Poindexter<sup>(viii)</sup> (For a continuation of this line, see later.)

## THE MAINER (MANER) FAMILY

I. Various writers treating of the Mainer family agree that it is of Welsh origin. Dr. G. M. G. Stafford<sup>1</sup> maintains this thesis. Mrs. Miller<sup>2</sup> asserts that the British progenitor of the family settled in Wales and was of Norman-French descent, the "Lord de Maner." This thesis is borne out by the very Welsh name of the first member of the family to immigrate to America. He was Griffith Maner,<sup>(i)</sup> who came as a boy to Virginia on 16 May, 1636 on the ship "Constance." Although we have no documentary evidence, absence of anyone else of the name in America makes it fairly certain that his son was John Maner.<sup>(ii)</sup> (The name was often spelled Manear, Manner, and Manners in the early days of Virginia and North Carolina.)

II. John Maner (or Mainer, the name being spelled both ways in the early period) was born in Virginia about 1665. Around the turn of the century he migrated (along with many other Virginians) to northeastern North Carolina. In 1711 he was justice of the peace in Bertie County, North Carolina. His wife was probably a member of the prominent Alston family. On Friday, July 22, 1715, John Mainer was appointed Constable from Wicacon Creek to Meherrin.

In 1719 he received a grant of 445 acres on the west bank of the Chowan River.

John Maner<sup>(ii)</sup> died in Bertie County, North Carolina, in 1729. His will was probated there by the May Court of 1729.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dr. G. M. G. Stafford, "The Maner Family," *The Louisiana Genealogical Register*, January, 1947, Vol. II, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> Mrs. Annie E. Miller, *Our Family Circle*, p. 296.

<sup>3</sup> J. Bryan Grimes, *Abstracts of North Carolina Wills*, p. 237.

PORTRAIT OF WILLIAM S. POINDEXTER (VII) AND MARY MAINER (VII)  
POINDEXTER MADE ABOUT 1850.





Therein he mentions Solomon Alston, Mary Alston, and John Alston and three sons:

1. Samuel Mainer, (iv)
2. William Mainer, (iv) born about 1729 (see below).
3. Jacob Maner (iii)

III. William Maner, (iii) son of John Maner, (ii) was born, probably in Virginia,<sup>4</sup> about 1695. He was brought to Bertie County, North Carolina, at an early age. He received 200 acres of land in his father's will of 1729. After reaching manhood, he settled in Bath Precinct, where he married Sarah Keel, daughter of John Keel, who, in his will of 1736, mentions John and William Mainer, sons of William and Sarah Mainer, "to whom he gave three cows and calves each."

John Y. Maner (born December 12, 1795), great grandson of William Maner, (iii) wrote an interesting Bible record, which is still preserved. Therein he makes the following statement:

William Mainer, Sen., a native of Virginia, had two sons both natives of the same place, John and William. John Mainer Junr., son of William Mainer Junr. was born in Edgefield. So Carolina the 8th of April 1759. Kezia Mainer wife of John Mainer Sr. was born the 24 May 1763.<sup>5</sup>

Although the birthplace of the two sons of William Mainer Sr. (iii) was probably wrong, the rest of the record is correct. On November 8, 1730 William Maner (iii) is called "William Mainer, late of Bertie Precinct, now of New River." Having lived successively in Bertie, Craven, and Onslow Precincts, he sold all his landholdings in North Carolina by 1746, when he migrated to South Carolina. About 1758 he settled on the Savannah River with his two sons, John and William Mainer. (iv)

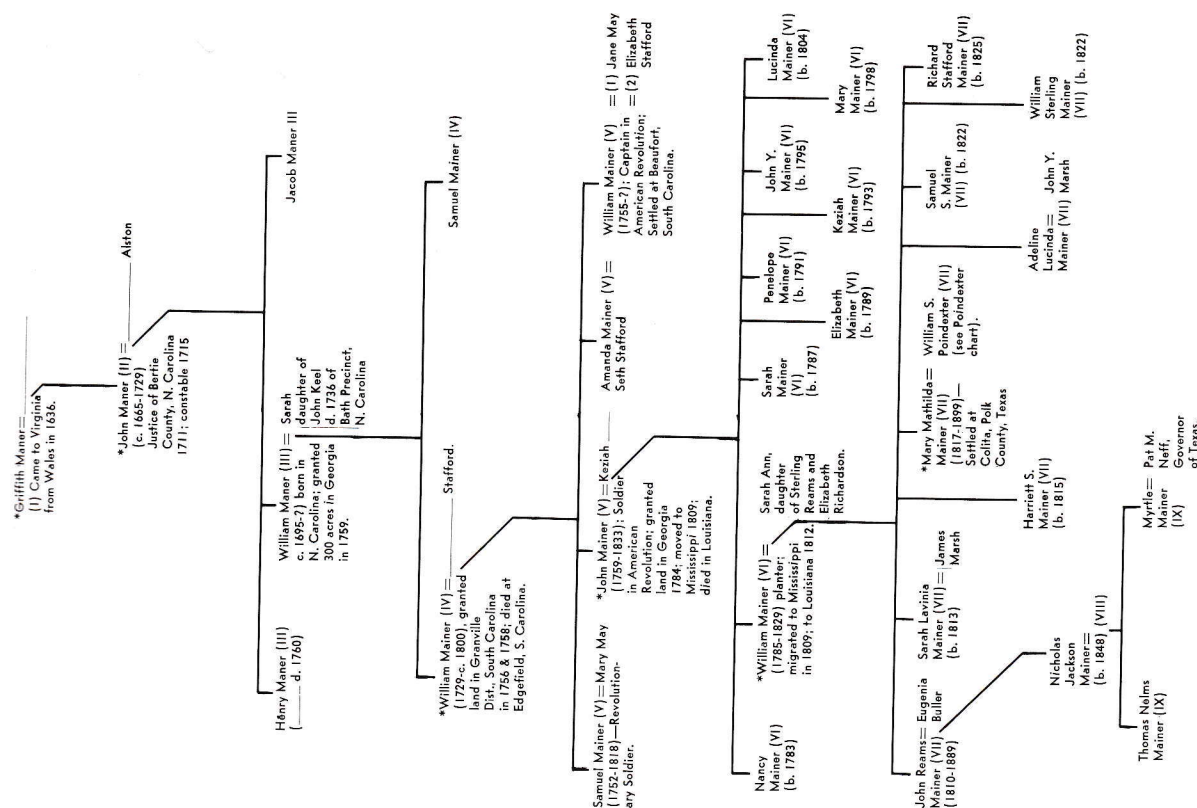
In December of 1759 John Mainer (iv) petitioned for 400 acres on the Savannah River in Halifax District, Georgia, with his wife, four children, and one slave.<sup>6</sup>

In February of 1759 William Mainer (iii) (the father) "having a wife and five negroes prayed for 300 acres at Halifax,

<sup>4</sup> Bible Record of John Young Mainer.

<sup>5</sup> Bible Record of John Young Mainer.

<sup>6</sup> Chandler, *Colonial Records of Georgia*, Vol. VIII, p. 371.





Georgia, three miles above Stony Bluff.<sup>76</sup> It was later granted. He died there soon thereafter. His sons, as mentioned above, were:

1. Samuel Mainer, (iv)
  2. William Mainer, (iv) born about 1729 (see below).
- IV. William Mainer, (iv) remained in South Carolina, first in Beaufort County, then near Edgefield. In the South Carolina Royal Grants for George II, William Manear received 150 acres in Granville District on December 15, 1755; 150 acres on April 16, 1756; and 250 acres of April 12, 1758. (These grants were in the Beaufort area on the Savannah River.) After living in Beaufort District, William Mainer moved to Edgefield about 1759. There he remained for the rest of his life. He died there about 1800. His wife was probably a member of the Stafford family, who had long been friends of the Mainers. Their children were:

1. Samuel Mainer, (v) born January 10, 1752; he married Mary May in 1772. He was a soldier in the American Revolution and died in 1818 in South Carolina.
2. William Mainer, (v) born about 1755, settled at Black Swamp, Beaufort County, South Carolina, where he had probably been born and had lived as a child. He was a Captain of Militia during the Revolution under General Francis Marion. He married twice, Jane May, and Elizabeth Stafford and had children by both marriages (see "Mainer Family," *Louisiana Genealogical Register*).
3. Amanda Mainer, (v) married Seth Stafford.
4. John Mainer, (v) (see below)

V. John Mainer, (v) was born at Edgefield, South Carolina, on April 8, 1759,<sup>7</sup> the son of William Mainer. (iv) At an early age he crossed the Savannah River and settled near his uncle, John Mainer, (iv) and grandfather, William Mainer (iii) There he married, about 1781, Keziah \_\_\_\_\_, born May 24, 1763. Like his brothers, John Mainer (v) served in the American Revolution. In 1781 John Mainer was on the payroll of Capt. Patrick Carr's Company of Rangers in Burke County,

<sup>7</sup> Bible Record of John Y. Mainer; Bible Record of John Reams Mainer.

Georgia. He served in Capt. James Mackey's Regiment from 16 September, 1782 to 1 June 1782. "John Mainer, private in Company F, in the Georgia Militia under Col. Elijah Clarke, State of Georgia, certificate of service issued February 2, 1784.<sup>8</sup> On February 2, 1784 he was awarded a bounty of 250 acres for these services. On November 10, 1784 he was granted 200 acres in Wilkes County, Georgia. He owned plantations in Wilkes and Green County, Georgia. About 1809 he sold his Georgia land and moved with his family and his Mainer and Stafford cousins and settled at Woodville, Wilkinson County, Mississippi. A few years later he went to Louisiana with his children. He died there on August 16, 1833.<sup>9</sup> The children of John Mainer (v) and his wife Keziah were:

1. Nancy Mainer, (vi) born April 28, 1783.
2. William Mainer, (vi) born February 19, 1785 (see later).
3. Sarah Mainer, (vi) born April 6, 1787.
4. Elizabeth Mainer, (vi) born March 30, 1789.
5. Penelope Mainer, (vi) born February 24, 1791.
6. Keziah Mainer, (vi) born April 20, 1793.
7. John Y. Mainer, (vi) born December 12, 1795.
8. Mary Mainer, (vi) born October 29, 1798.
9. Lucinda Mainer, (vi) born September 3, 1804.

VI. William Mainer, (vi) the son of John Mainer (v) and his wife Keziah, was born on February 19, 1785, in Georgia. About 1809 he migrated to Woodville, Wilkinson County, Mississippi, with his parents and relatives. There on December 24, 1809, he married Sarah Ann Reams, daughter of William Sterling Reams and his wife, Elizabeth Richardson, who had moved from Edgefield, South Carolina, to Feliciana Parish, Louisiana in 1802. The Reams and Richardson families were among the original Anglo-American settlers of Feliciana at the time when Louisiana entered the Union. The forebears of Elizabeth Richardson in South Carolina included General Richard Richardson of the Revolutionary War as well as the Cante family of Charleston and the Bradford, Manning, and McDonald families of Sumter

<sup>8</sup> Knight, *Roster of Revolutionary Soldiers*, p. 132.

<sup>9</sup> Bible Record of John Y. Mainer; Bible Record of John Reams Mainer.



1) Ages deaths and marriages  
 John Mainer died was born September 10<sup>th</sup> 1759  
 Elizabeth Mainer wife of John Mainer born 1759  
 Mary Mainer daughter of John Mainer born 1759  
 2) William Mainer was born February 12<sup>th</sup> 1785  
 3) Sarah Mainer was born April 7<sup>th</sup> 1785  
 4) Elizabeth Mainer was born March 26<sup>th</sup> 1789  
 5) Philip Mainer was born February 22<sup>nd</sup> 1791  
 6) Elizabeth Mainer was born April 21<sup>st</sup> 1793  
 7) John Mainer was born December 13<sup>th</sup> 1795  
 8) Mary Mainer was born October 29<sup>th</sup> 1798  
 9) Susanna Mainer was born September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1804  
 William Mainer & Sarah Reames were married  
 December 24<sup>th</sup> 1809  
 William Mainer was born February 19<sup>th</sup> 1785  
 Sarah Mainer wife of William Mainer was born  
 February 28<sup>th</sup> 1791  
 1) John R. Mainer son of William Mainer & Sarah his  
 wife was born November 27<sup>th</sup> 1810  
 2) Sarah S. Mainer daughter of do. was born January 15<sup>th</sup> 1812  
 3) Harriet S. Mainer was born April 26<sup>th</sup> 1815  
 Harriet S. Mainer daughter of do. was born December 15<sup>th</sup> 1815  
 4) Mary M. Mainer was born September 21<sup>st</sup> 1817  
 5) Belvidere S. Mainer was born September 1<sup>st</sup> 1820  
 6) Samuel S. Mainer was born Nov 21<sup>st</sup> 1822  
 7) William S. Mainer was born Nov 21<sup>st</sup> 1822  
 Samuel S. Mainer daughter of do. was born Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 1823  
 8) Richard S. Mainer born Sept 12<sup>th</sup> 1825

PAGE FROM BIBLE OF WILLIAM MAINER (VI).

County. The Richardson and Manning families have furnished six governors of South Carolina. The Reams family had come to the Carolinas from Virginia after the Revolution. Sarah Ann Reams was born at Edgefield, South Carolina, on February 28, 1790.<sup>10</sup>

About 1812 William and Sarah Mainer crossed the Mississippi River with their cousins and settled between Cheneyville and Opelousas on Caney Creek in St. Landry Parish (the area is now part of Evangeline Parish). There William Mainer established a large sugar cane plantation and acquired a number of slaves. He was a successful planter. (A handsome portrait of William Mainer painted probably at Woodville about 1810, reproduced in this book, is in the possession of the writer; a daguerreotype of Sarah Reams Mainer, made in Louisiana about 1830, is also reproduced).

On March 17, 1823, Sterling Reams of the Parish of Feliciana, gave his grandson, John Reams Mainer, three negroes in the deed quoted below:

Know all men that I Sterling Reames have given to my beloved grandson John Reames Mainer son of William and Sarah A. Mainer of the Parish of St. Landry and state aforesaid the following negroes, viz. Dinah, negro girl aged 15 dark complexion and coarse features, Maria a negro woman aged twenty years, rather light complexion, and Captain Charles son of Maria a mulatto child aged one year. To have and to hold all the above described negroes for the use and benefit of John Reames Mainer...

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Opelousas Church this seventeenth day of March A.D. Eighteen Hundred and Twenty Three and the forty seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

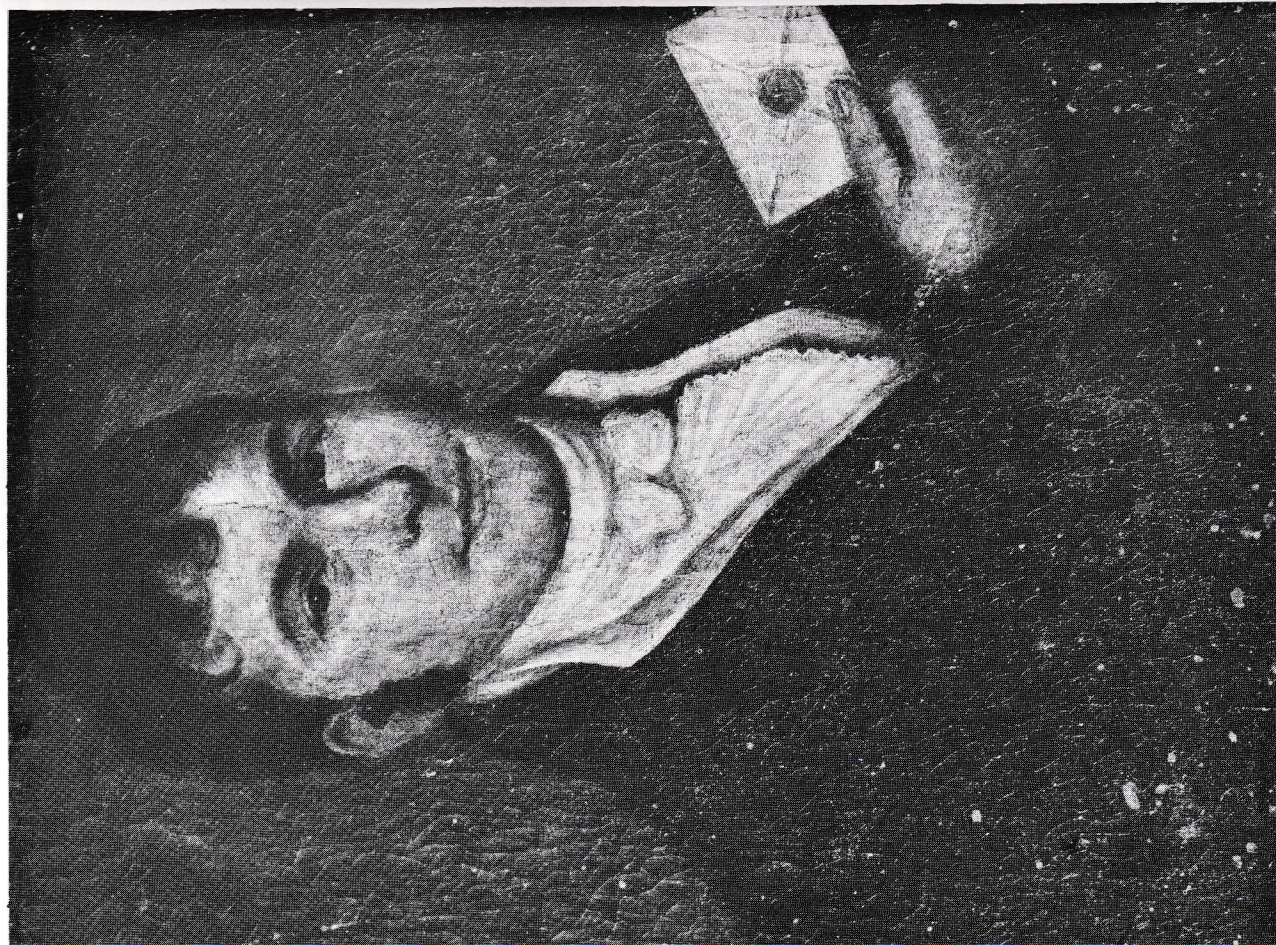
Witnesses  
 Geo. King  
 James Ray, Notary Public  
 Sterling Reames SEAL  
 William Mainer SEAL<sup>11</sup>

Unfortunately, William Mainer died prematurely on March 11, 1829 in St. Landry Parish. At the time of his death an in-

<sup>10</sup> Bible Record of John Reams Mainer.

<sup>11</sup> Conveyance Book F No. 1; From April 17, 1821 to 1825, Parish of St. Landry, p. 338 (Donation of Slaves to John Reames Mainer).





PORTRAIT OF WILLIAM MAINER (VI) (1785-1829) PAINTED ABOUT 1810.

ventory of the estate was drawn up excluding the household furniture, which was retained by the widow and children. Sarah Ann Reams Mainer later married Nicholas Calliham, who purchased many items listed in the inventory. Since it affords insight into a typical sugar cane plantation, the inventory is included here:

State of Louisiana  
Parish of St. Landry

Persuant to an order of the Court of Probates, I George King Parish Judge and ex-officio Notary Public in and for the aforesaid Parish have this day the tenth of November in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty one proceeded to the last residence of the late William Mainer of the said Parish deceased, situated on Caney Creek about 40 miles from the Courthouse of said Parish in order to sell at public auction the estate in community between the widow and heirs of the said deceased, payable one half the purchase money on the thirteenth day of April next in the year 1833 purchasers giving approved personal security and the slaves remaining especially mortgaged to the said estate until the entire payment of their several prices and the interest which may accrue thereon, it being understood that all sums not punctually paid will bear interest at the rate of 10% per annum until payment, and that this last clause shall not be so construed as to grant further indulgence the aforesaid terms and conditions having been proclaimed aloud to the people attending the sale and the sale advertised according to law. We have proceeded as follows (to wit)

First A mulatto boy named Charles aged ten years sold to John Mainer for three hundred and fifty dollars security

2nd A negro girl named Eddie aged 10 years sold to William Hoggatt for three hundred and fifty dollars security  
John R. Mainer \$350.00

3rd One yoke of work oxen sold to Berry Beesley for security William Beesley 350.00  
William Beesley 39.00  
X his mark

4th One pair of work oxen sold to William Kitchel for \$50.00 security Joseph T. Calliham  
J. F. Calliham  
William x Kitchel 50.00  
his mark



5th	One cross cut saw sold to James Curtis for \$9.00 security Richard Dollard	James Curtis	9.00
6th	One silver watch sold to Dillard Marsh for twenty dollars and fifty cents security Nicholas Calliham	Nicholas M. Calliham	20.50
7th	A negro man named Daniel aged about thirty two years, a negro woman named Maria wife to Daniel aged about 28 years with her 4 children, towit, Henry a boy aged about 7 years, Jenny a girl aged about 6 years, Sam a boy aged about 4 and half years and Eliza a girl aged about 2 years sold together to Sarah Reames late widow of William Main-er, and now wife of Nicholas M. Calliham who makes this purchase with the advise and consent of her husband who has hereunto signed with her for \$1605.00	Sarah A. Calliham	1605.00
8th	A negro woman named Dinah aged about 22 years with her 3 children, towit, Martha a mulatto girl aged about 6 years, Anna a negro girl aged about 4 years and Louisa a negro girl aged about 3 years sold together to Pierre Murtel Guil-lory for \$1035.00 the first payment the said Pierre M. Guillory has executed his two prometary notes, one in favor of Wm. Moore for two hundred and eight dollars & eighty three cents & the other in favor of George King for \$129.29 1/2 which when paid will be an acquittance for those two notes having been given in payment of debts due by the estate	Pierre M. Guillory	1035.00
9th	One ass sold to Nicholas Calliham for thirteen dollars	J. Bordelon	13.00
10th	Five kittles sold to Nicholas Calliham for thury four dollars	N. M. Calliham	34.00
11th	One Rifle gun sold to Nicholas Calliham for twenty eight dol-lars	N. M. Calliham	28.00
12th	One fusil sold to Nicholas Calliham for \$20.50	N. M. Calliham	20.50
13th	Three iron wedges sold to Nicholas Calliham for three dollars	N. M. Calliham	3.00
14th	Three oxen sold to Nicholas Calliham for \$5.75	N. M. Calliham	5.75
15th	A lot of tools sold to Nicholas Calliham for ten dollars	N. M. Calliham	10.00

16th	One grind-stone sold to Nicholas Calliham for \$2.25	N. M. Calliham	2.25
17th	Three old ploughs sold to Nicholas Calliham for \$3.00	N. M. Calliham	3.00
18th	Three planes sold to Nicholas Calliham for \$3.50	N. M. Calliham	3.50
19th	One harrow sold to Nicholas Calliham for \$2.25	N. M. Calliham	2.25
20th	Two ox chains sold to Nicholas Calliham for \$5.50	N. M. Calliham	5.50
21st	One pair of mill stones sold to Nicholas Calliham for \$21.00	N. M. Calliham	21.00
22nd	The buildings and improvements on the Domain sold to Nicholas Calliham for one hundred and forty dollars	N. M. Calliham	140.00
23rd	Seven cane knives sold to Nicholas Calliham for \$3.00	N. M. Calliham	3.00
24th	One man sold to Nicholas Calliham for \$100.00	N. M. Calliham	100.00
25th	A negro woman named Sarah aged about twenty six years with her three children towit Aime a girl aged about eight years, Letty a girl aged about five years and Alexander a boy aged about 3 years sold to John Butler for nine hundred and eight dollars security Michael D. Boatwright	John Butler	980.00
	M. D. Boatwright		\$4833.25

Having sold all the property belonging to the estate in community as aforesaid we have closed the sale amounting to the sum of four thousand eight hundred and thirty three dollars and twenty five cents and have hereunto signed with the interested in presence of Wm. Prescott and John Butler at Opelousas the day and year first above written.

Witnesses

W. M. Prescott

John Butler

Geo. King Judge

Sarah A. Calliham

N. M. Calliham

John R. Mainer

James Marsh x (his mark)





DAGUERRETYPE OF SARAH ANN REAMS MAINER, MADE ABOUT 1840 IN LOUISIANA.

The children of William Mainer (vi) and Sarah Ann Reams were

1. John Reams Mainer, (vii) born November 27, 1810, lived in Rapides Parish and was a planter and school teacher, commencing that profession on 9 July, 1832. He wrote by hand an arithmetic book wherein he also entered all the Mainer family records from 1759 to 1834. He married Eugenia Buller and came to Polk County, Texas, in 1850, where he became a well-to-do planter and stockraiser prominent in civic and Baptist affairs. He was an early promoter of Baylor University. He and his wife had nine children who lived to adulthood. Among them, Nicholas Jackson Mainer, (viii) had a son, Thomas Nelms Mainer,

(ix) and a daughter, Myrtle Mainer, married Pat Morris Neff, governor of Texas, and president of Baylor University. Other children of John Reams Mainer intermarried into the Marsh and Cochran families of Polk County.

2. Sarah Lavinia Mainer, (vii) born January 15, 1813; married James Marsh and came to Texas in 1846.
3. Harriet S. Mainer, born April 26, 1815.
4. Mary Mathilda Mainer, (vii) born September 20, 1817 in Louisiana. She married William S. Poindexter, (vii) (see sketch) of Rapides Parish on October 5, 1842. In 1846 she came to Polk County, Texas, and settled at Colita with her husband and family. She died at Livingston, Texas, on December 17, 1899.
5. Adeline Lucinda Mainer, (vii) born September 1, 1820; married John Y. Marsh; came to Texas in 1844.
6. Samuel S. Mainer, (vii) born November 21, 1822.
7. William Sterling Mainer, (vii) born November 21, 1822; came to Polk County, Texas, in 1846.
8. Richard Stafford Mainer, (vii) born April 15, 1825; settled in Polk County, Texas, in 1846.

When Nicholas Calliham,<sup>12</sup> second husband of Sarah Reams Mainer, died in 1848, another inventory of the Mainer estate was made in Polk County, Texas. It, too, is quoted here, primarily because of the interesting information it contains regarding the furnishings of the plantation house and farmyard. The "desk and bookcase" mentioned therein is now in possession of the writer. It is a handsome Empire desk of mahogany made in Louisiana about 1825. It has been in the possession of descendants since that time. As is the case with all evaluations made in 1848 and earlier, it must be kept in mind that current values (1975) would be as much as ten times higher, or more.

Sarah Ann Reams Mainer was an outstanding woman of her time and place. Family tradition has it that she was a highly cultured and educated woman for her era. She had a large

<sup>12</sup> Morris (sometimes misspelled "Moses") Calliham, was one of Stephen F. Austin's "Old 300" Colonists. He patented a league of land within the present limits of Houston, Harris County, in 1824. Nicholas Calliham, his brother, settled his estate upon his death in 1825.



medicine cabinet and a doctor's bag, which she used to treat family and slaves, as well as neighbors. Her "fine carriage" from Louisiana was an uncommon sight for the Colita neighborhood until the inhabitants became accustomed to seeing her being driven to and fro by a favorite servant. Her hand-some house, a storey and a half frame residence similar to that described as having been built by W. S. Poindexter, still stands on a high hill near Colita with a view of the Trinity Bottom. After her death it was owned by her son Stafford Mainer, and later by Stafford Marsh.

When she died on March 20, 1866, the following notation was made in the records of Bethel Church: "Beloved Sister Sarah A. Calliham's funeral was preached to a large and respected congregation at 11 A.M. by J. W. D. Creath."

Inventory of Sarah Reams Mainer Calliham (widow of William Mainer), made on October 6, 1848 at Livingston, Polk County, Texas:

1 brown horse-mule (Jack)	\$25.00
1 brown horse-mule (Jim)	30.00
1 brown horse-mare (Jim)	30.00
1 paint horse-mare (Paint)	30.00
1 paint mare	25.00
1 white horse-mare (Kate)	35.00
1 white horse-mare (Fashion)	35.00
1 white horse	35.00
1 white mare (Nance)	30.00
1 bay horse (Peter)	25.00
1 white paint	15.00
1 brown mare colt	15.00
1 paint mule colt	8.00
1 Jack Ass	15.00
1 gray mare called Epsey	40.00
1 " " Saplish	45.00
1 Sorrell horse called Buck	35.00
1 Bay horse called Dick	50.00
1 gray horse called Squirrel	40.00
1 Dun mare horse filly	15.00
1 old sorrell horse 15 year old	15.00
1 Iron gray mare called Sally	25.00
1 Sorrell horse colt	10.00
1 Sorrell Paint mare	45.00

1 Bay mare called Wheeler	40.00
1 Brason pony called Charley	30.00
1 Dun mare 2 years old	25.00
1 old bay horse called Pette	12.00
1 Iron gray horse called Byron	50.00
1 Yoke oxen called Jack & Sampson	35.00
1 " " Mike & Jeff	30.00
1 " " Buck & Broad	30.00
1 " " Jim & Bright	30.00
1 " " Sippard & Gilbert	30.00
1 " " Buck & Lyon	30.00
1 " " Old Clifford & Lyon	30.00
5 cards valued at \$8.00 each	40.00
1 barren cow	7.00
6 yearlings at 4.00 each	24.00
46 head of sheep at 2.25 ea.	103.50
5 lambs at 1.00 ea.	5.00
35 head of stock at 2.50 ea.	87.50
1 road waggon	125.00
1 cart	30.00
1 fine carriage	100.00
6 ploughs at 4.00 ea.	24.00
1 plough 1.00	1.00
1 harrow with iron hook	3.50
5 single trees & 4 devise	2.50
6 sets of plough greaves	6.00
4 coupling chains	7.00
1 cross cut saw	6.00
1 negro woman named Letty age 22	550.00
1 negro girl named Matilda 6 years	250.00
1 negro girl named Elizabeth 4 years	150.00
1 yellow boy Daniel 2 years	100.00
1 negro child named Susan 1 year	100.00
1 negro boy named Alex at 20 years	400.00
1 negro woman named Patience at 30 years	600.00
1 large double barrel shot gun	20.00
1 small double barrel shot gun	10.00
1 broken rifle gun	5.00
1 brand (J.C.)	2.00
1 Sideboard	25.00
1 Book case & Desk	20.00
4 Cherry Bed Steads at \$10	40.00
2 Beds & Furniture at 12.50	25.00
1 Fall Leaf Table	10.00
12 Raw Hide Bottom Chairs	9.00



1 Wash Stand	2.50
1 Glass & Glass Drawer	1.00
1 Looking Glass	.25
1 Lot of Table Furniture	8.00
4 Volumes of Rollins History	6.00
39 Miscellaneous Books	15.00
The Entire Kitchen Furniture	20.00
1 Steel Mill	3.50
9 Hoes	2.00
8 Axes	7.00
3 Iron Wedges & 1 F Saw	3.00
Lot of Tools, Bells, etc	12.00
1 Ballance	3.50
1 Whip Saw	1.00
1 Scythe, cutting knife, etc.	1.00
1 Bench Screw	1.00
\$200 cash brought from Louisiana	200.00
1,000 Bushels Corn	500.00
2,500 Lbs. Pork	120.00
1 seven year old beef	6.00
4 B Bls. Cotton—1384 Lbs. at 6¢	43.00
3 Spinning Wheels	4.50
1 Foot Adze	.50
1 Spanish Saddle	10.00
500 acres of land	500.00
1 White & Dun Mule	15.00
1 Broad Axe	5.00
1 Grind Stone	2.00
	\$5460.25
N. M. Calliham's Separate Property:	
1 bed	5.00
1 old wood clock	.25
Community property of the succession due him	200.00
Filed in the Clerk's Office of the Probate Court of Polk Co. on March 26, 1848.	

Signed  
Sarah A. Calliham

(Samuel Rowe  
Peter de la Fosse  
swore that the cash valuations were accurate)

The foregoing inventory is a rare example of the accoutrements of an antebellum East Texas plantation. The household furniture actually listed included only the formal Sheraton,

Hepplewhite, and Empire pieces made by a cabinet maker. The "kitchen furniture" referred to the country items made on the plantation. This, with the seven slaves (there had been seventeen in the estate in Louisiana in 1829), the road wagon, the fine carriage, the books, the tools, stock, etc. conjures up an affluent picture of the life of the Southern gentry who settled in Texas before the War Between the States. The Mainer and Poindexter families were fitting representatives of this class.

Among the slaves, Daniel, Letty, and Alex were also listed in the Louisiana inventory of 1829. When this inventory was made, some items had already been bought by the heirs, e.g., William S. Poindexter bought three slaves, three books, and a large map not listed herein.

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### THE EIGHTH GENERATION.

#### ROBERT LYNN POINDEXTER (viii)

Robert Lynn Poindexter, (viii) the son of William S. Poindexter and his wife Mary Mathilda Mainer, was born on August 24, 1846, in Rapides Parish, Louisiana.<sup>13</sup> As was seen in the foregoing chapter, his father had gone to Texas in 1844 to establish a plantation. After several trips there and back, he brought his family to Colita, Polk County, Texas, late in 1846.

Robert Poindexter was educated at home and at Colita Academy. His youth was fraught with the anxieties and turmoil preceding the War Between the States, and in 1862, at the age of sixteen he enlisted in the Confederate Army together with his half-brother Thomas R. McCrorey and his Mainer and Marsh cousins. He entered Company "E," Twentieth Texas Infantry, Harrison's Brigade, as a private. He served throughout the War and took part in the victorious Battle of Galveston on January 1, 1863 when that city was retaken from Union forces by the

<sup>13</sup> Bible record of R. L. Poindexter and tombstone record, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas.



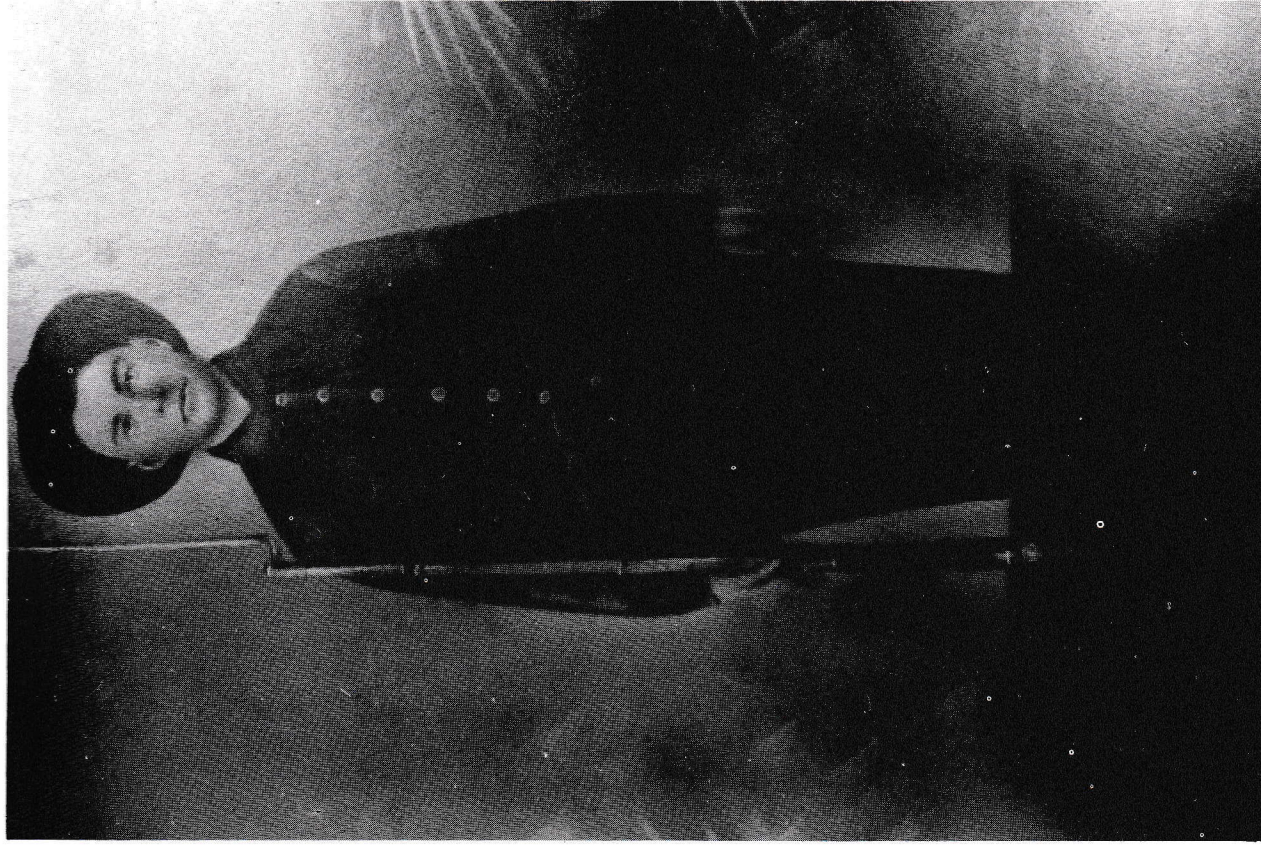
Confederates. Thereafter he served on patrol duty in Louisiana and at Sabine Pass. An interesting photograph was made of him in his uniform, probably at Galveston in 1863.

Returning to Polk County after the surrender, Robert Poindexter faced a sad homecoming. His father died soon after the end of the war, in September and left a sadly reduced estate to his wife and children. After much litigation between former cotton factors of William Poindexter in Galveston<sup>14</sup> and his heirs, the estate was settled and the debts paid. An interesting document referring to part of this settlement reads in part as follows:

Be it known unto all men that whereas the tract of land lying in Polk County on the waters of Bridge Creek in the Louisiana Settlement which was purchased by William S. Poindexter late of said County from Hiram Watts on the 12th day of June A.D. 1851 and which was owned and occupied by the said Poindexter at the time of his death—he having departed this life on the \_\_\_\_ day of October(?) A.D. 1865, was by covenants and agreements between the heirs and widow of said Poindexter each with the other on the \_\_\_\_ day of Feby. 1866 divided amongst the said heirs and widow and a separate and distinct portion thereof in said division was set apart and allotted by metes and boundaries to each of said parties and whereas previous to the making of Deeds of conveyance, transfer and release by each of the said parties to the other to the allotted intent in trust of said tract of land—Robert L. Poindexter, one of the aforementioned heirs and distributors thereof, did on the 10th day of January A.D. 1869, bargain and sell his interest and portion to R. S. Mainer of said Polk County . . . We, Mary M. Poindexter, widow of said W. S. Poindexter, dec'd., Thomas R. McCrory, Robert L. Poindexter, Martin D. Ford, and Sarah J. Ford, his wife, children and heirs at law and all citizens of said county and state . . . on the waters of Bridge Creek, a tributary of Kickapoo Creek of the Trinity River on the road leading through the Louisiana Settlement in said Polk County from Patrick's Ferry and the Trinity River to the town of Moscow and about 12½ miles easterly from said Ferry.

Attest.	The first day of January, A.D. 1869
J. Y. Marsh	M. M. Poindexter
Calvin Murphy	T. R. McCrory
(Deed Book L, p. 489, Polk County, Texas)	R. L. Poindexter Martin D. Ford S. J. Ford
	SEAL

<sup>14</sup> J. Frederick, Henry Runge, and J. W. Jockusch, well-known merchants of Galveston.



ROBERT LYNN POINDEXTER (VIII) 1846-1925) IN CONFEDERATE UNIFORM, MADE AT GALVESTON C. 1863.



On January 22, 1867, Robert Lynn Poindexter married Angeline Burch, the daughter of Valentine Ignatius Burch and his wife, Helen Elmira Cauble of Tyler County, Texas. Even though he had been reared a Baptist, Robert Poindexter embraced the religion of his wife and became a Roman Catholic at the time of his marriage, which was performed by the Rev. S. Hennessy, a noted early Catholic missionary priest.

After their marriage, the couple lived for a time at the plantation home of Valentine Burch at Peach Tree Village, Tyler County, Texas, formerly the home of Peter Cauble, grandfather of the bride. Valentine Burch was a veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto and a revered early settler of Southeast Texas. (For more information on the Burch family see the subsequent sketch).

It seems that Robert Poindexter lived for a year in Houston County, for on August 9, 1874, he conveyed to his sister, Sarah Jane Ford, the southern half of the Oliver Patterson League on Kickapoo Creek in that county for a consideration of \$1,000. It had been conveyed to him on October 14, 1873 as a citizen of that county.

Thereafter he returned to the Burch plantation at Peach Tree Village,<sup>15</sup> which he managed for his father-in-law and part of which he inherited upon Burch's death in 1892.

To sum up the flavor of life at Peach Tree Village in that era, a quotation from the recollections of John Henry Kirby, founder of the Texas lumber industry, is included here, recalling his boyhood in this community with his Burch relations:

I recall an occasion in 1872 when the young men of that neighborhood pulled what they called a Tournament. It was a race track, a straight one however, and at the edge of the track at each 100 feet poles, similar to a telegraph pole, were set up with an arm overhanging the track, from which a wire with a hook in the bottom end was suspended, and on that hook a steel ring, about 2½ or 3 inches in diameter, was hung. The test of horsemanship was to run at full speed on this track with a wooden spear, 6 or 1 foot long, which would be cast into these rings by the horseman as his steed swept by. There

<sup>15</sup> A state tax receipt for 1877, in possession of the writer shows that he was living in Tyler County by that date.

were 12 or 15 entrants of the very flower of the young manhood of that locality. Your father (Fayette Lewis, later husband of Mary Burch, sister of Angeline Burch Poindexter) was one of them, as was also his brother Lee. I was much attached to your father and, of course, more concerned about him than about any other young man in the contest.

All of the mounted knights, as they were called, were dressed in Spanish costume with knee breeches, flaring waistcoats, and military hats turned up in front and fastened with a silver or gold star. I remember your father that day was not a knight, he was an Adonis. In the contest he took first prize and among the privileges to this prize was to crown the Queen of the Tournament. Of course he crowned Mary Burch.

There were no ballrooms or dancing pavilions of any character in that part of the country at that time and all of the parties were given at some farm house. The Queen's Ball on the night of the Tournament was given at the home of Mr. James F. Priest. I attended. The winning Knight and his Queen, of course, were the guests of honor, and everybody (and it was a big crowd), did obeisance to them. I was there, a boy of 12, to enjoy the triumph of my hero. I remember that Tom Seamans took the fiddle. Fayette and Mary were in the set. The prompter called the figure, "Grand Right and Left." My hero, as he passed through the figure, meeting and greeting all of the fair damsels in that fair set, began to sing, "Howdy, Gals, howdy." It was the superb moment of my life. I have seen nothing since that appeared just as fitting as that voluntary contribution of his to the evening's sports. Of course in those days they danced square dances, Quadrilles, and Reels, and they were always executed under the direction of a "prompter."

Tom Seamans was rendering an inspiring tune entitled "The Racoon Treed the 'Possum," when Fayette burst forth with this rhythmic greeting to the charming girls he met in this figure.<sup>16</sup>

# I

In 1879 Robert L. Poindexter, with Valentine Burch, was one of the founders of a private academy at Peach Tree Village, called the Crow School, taught by Prof. Frank P. Crow.<sup>17</sup> The U.S. Census for 1880 for Tyler County, Texas, lists R. L. Poin-

<sup>16</sup> Excerpt from a letter written September 30, 1932 by John Henry Kirby to Sister Mary Victory Lewis, a nun of Incarnate Word, and daughter of Fayette Lewis and Mary Burch above and first cousin of Dr. J. R. Poindexter.

<sup>17</sup> From *Reunion of the Crow School, 1929*, by John Henry Kirby (Houston, 1929)





ROBERT LYNN POINDEXTER (VIII) (1846-1925) AND ANGELINE BURCH POINDEXTER (VIII) C. 1910.

dexter and "Angy" his wife, and children: John, Art, Walter, Stafford, Evadna, and Thomas.

In 1897 Robert Poindexter and his family moved to a farm near Lufkin in Angelina County, which he had purchased shortly before that time.

Robert Lynn Poindexter died there on December 6, 1925, and his wife, Angeline Burch Poindexter, followed him in death on December 19, 1928.<sup>18</sup> Their obituaries, quoted from the *Lufkin Daily News* of that period, give an interesting insight into their lives.

R. L. POINDEXTER DIES AT HIS HOME SUNDAY

R. L. Poindexter 79 years old, one of the best known citizens of the

<sup>18</sup> Bible record of Robert Lynn Poindexter.

County, died early Sunday morning at his home two miles South of Lufkin after a long illness lasting over a period of several months. The deceased was born in Louisiana August 24, 1846, but had lived in Angelina County for a long time.

During the Civil War he enlisted in the Confederate Army, where he remained until the close of the War, and he was a member in good standing of the local camp of Confederate Veterans.

He is survived by a wife, seven sons and three daughters.

Funeral services were held this afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Catholic Church and were conducted by Rev. M. J. Daly. Interment was at Glendale Cemetery.

Pall bearers, Roger Feagin, Marcus Poindexter, J. A. Williford, C. G. Burke, John Butler and B. F. Griffith.<sup>19</sup>

#### PIONEER OF COUNTY DIES DURING NIGHT ON CITY OUTSKIRTS

Mrs. R. L. Poindexter 82 years old, native East Texan and resident of Angelina County for many years, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. H. J. Hayes 2 miles South of Lufkin on the old Diboll Road, at 1:00 o'clock Wednesday night following a brief illness.

Loved and honored by friends and neighbors throughout the county as well as three daughters and seven sons who have gone forth to set the Poindexter name high on the scroll of success, Mrs. Poindexter's passing marks another milestone in the road which leads to the disappearance of pioneers who made East Texas.

She was born in Polk County and has lived in that section and near Lufkin her entire life.

All the sons and daughters will be at the bier tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, when the funeral services are held at the Catholic Church, with Father E. C. Veillard officiating. Interment will be in Glendale Cemetery, with the Gleen Undertaking Company in charge.

The daughters who survive are Mrs. Vadna Hayes, Mrs. Mattie Butler and Miss Minnie Poindexter, all of Lufkin. The sons include Dr. John Poindexter of Temple, who was a dentist here for many years; Newt Poindexter of Shreveport, who was an employee of the Foundry here for several years; Sam Poindexter of Shreveport who was a traveling representative of a Louisiana concern, in the city uncognizant of his mother's illness until Wednesday night; Walter of Globe, Arizona; Art of Silver City, New Mexico; Tom, of Jacksonville, Texas; Stafford, of Eldorado, Arkansas.

Pall bearers will be J. A. Williford, Roger Feagin, Marcus Poindexter, C. G. Burke, John Butler and B. F. Griffith.

Until quite recently Mrs. Poindexter was in the best of health, and she passed away after a brief illness. Her husband, also a pioneer of East Texas, died three years ago this month.



Mrs. Poindexter's father, Bob<sup>19</sup> Burch, who was dyed in the very blood of Texas freedom when he fought side by side with Sam Houston at the Battle of San Jacinto, is honored and revered by old-timers in this section of the Lone Star Confederacy as the father of a daughter whose children have arisen to call his name blessed.<sup>21</sup>

Robert Lynn Poindexter(viii) and his wife, Angeline Burch, had the following children:

I. John Reams Poindexter,(ix) born November 13, 1867; married Larissa Anna Powell, July 3, 1892. (For a continuation of this line, see later).

II. Artemus Berry Poindexter,(ix) born September 13, 1869; married Media Lewis, January 21, 1893. Children:

1. John Robert Poindexter,(x) born November 17, 1892.
2. Henry Otis Poindexter,(x) born August 16, 1895.
3. Bernard Chesley Poindexter,(x) born August 16, 1895.
4. Arthur Denman Poindexter,(x) born July 7, 1905.
5. Dalma Dorine Poindexter,(x) born July 7, 1905.

III. William Walter Poindexter,(ix) born September 21, 1871.

IV. Mary Evadna Poindexter,(ix) born January 28, 1874; married Harry Hays on June 28, 1896; children:

1. Frederick Chace Hays,(x) born April 4, 1904.
2. Robert Otis Hays,(x) born May 7, 1909.
3. William Wallis Hays,(x) born September 30, 1901.
4. Rosa Dell Hays(x) born January 11, 1905.
5. Merle Hays,(x) born January 11, 1905.

V. Richard Stafford Poindexter,(ix) born May 24, 1876; married Mary Riggsby, March 17, 1901; children:

1. J. D. Poindexter,(x) born December 27, 1901.
2. Gladys Poindexter,(x) born June 19, 1903.

VI. Thomas Lafayette Poindexter,(ix) born October 19, 1878.

VII. Matilda Louise Poindexter,(ix) born January 29, 1881; married Henry P. Butler, November 2, 1898; died, September 16, 1967; children:

1. Thelma Butler,(x) born December 17, 1900; married Carey Trevathan.
2. Auty Ray Butler,(x) born April 2, 1906.
3. Robert Lynn Butler,(x) born September 3, 1910.

VIII. Samuel D. Poindexter,(ix) born October 14, 1883; married Maude McAdams, November 10, 1910; died May 20, 1955; children:

<sup>19</sup> *Lufkin Daily News*, Monday, December 7, 1925.

<sup>20</sup> A sobriquet of Valentine Burch.

<sup>21</sup> *Lufkin Daily News*, December 21, 1928.

1. Clovis Newton Poindexter,(x) born February 17, 1911.
2. Kester Patrick Poindexter,(x) born November 26, 1912.
3. Roma Poindexter,(x) born January 27, 1914.

IX. Robert Newton Poindexter,(ix) born December 19, 1885; married Gladys Downs, June 29, 1913 (for a continuation of this line, see later).

X. Minnie Dora Poindexter,(ix) born February 14, 1888; unmarried; died February 24, 1953.

## THE BURCH AND ALLIED FAMILIES

I. The founders of the Burch family in America were two brothers, Thomas (I) and William Burch,(I) of the Birch-Burch family of Lancashire, England, who settled in Virginia in 1635. Of these, Thomas(I) later settled in Maryland. His son was

II. Oliver Burch(II) (1646-1729) who married Barbary Scott. He was a planter of Charles County.<sup>1</sup> The children of Oliver Burch(II) were

1. Justinian Burch.(III)
2. Edward Burch.(III)
3. Jonathan Burch.(III)
4. Thomas Burch.(III)
5. John Burch.(III)
6. Katherine Swan.(III)
7. Ann Swan.(III)
8. Barbary Allison.(III)
9. Elinor Burch.(III)
10. Elizabeth Cade.(III)

III. Justinian Burch,(III) (c. 1681-1760) the Son of Oliver Burch and Barbary Scott married Susannah Davis. He was a prosperous planter of Charles County, vestryman of Trinity Church, the local Anglican church, and horsebreeder. In his will he bequeathed fifteen slaves, over 1,000 acres of land, much tobacco, plantation tools and household effects. The plantations mentioned in the will of Justinian Burch were "Lumley," "Bowling Plains," Burches Addition," and "Spenick." The children of Justinian Burch and Susannah Davis were

1. Justinian Burch.(IV)
2. Edward Burch.(IV)
3. Oliver Burch.(IV)
4. Susannah Burch.(IV)
5. Monica Burch.(IV)
6. Mary Burch.(IV)
7. Elizabeth Burch.(IV)

IV. Edward Burch (IV) (c. 1720-1761) the son of Justinian Burch and Susannah Davis, married Anastasia Jenkins. This

<sup>1</sup> He left a will which was probated in 1729 in Charles County.



couple settled in Prince Georges County, Maryland, where they acquired several plantations, viz. "Burches Venture," "Discovery," "Friend's Advice," "Content," "Dickenson Park," "Down," "Scythe," and "Weaver's Prospect"—over 1,000 acres in all. Ten slaves and one servant were named and others mentioned, with furniture, tobacco, etc. in Edward Burch's will of 1761. Edward Burch became a Roman Catholic upon his marriage to Anastasia Jenkins, of that faith. The children of Edward Burch and Anastasia Jenkins were

1. Edward Burch, (v) married Ann Spink. (see later)
2. Justinian Burch. (v)
3. Ann Burch. (v)
4. Anastasia Burch. (v)
5. Wineford Burch. (v)

V. Edward Burch (v) (c. 1755–1795) son of Edward Burch and Anastasia Jenkins, a Catholic planter, inherited "Burches Venture" and "Discovery"<sup>2</sup> from his father, along with furniture, cattle, and two negroes, George and Watt. Edward Burch married Ann Spink on October 15, 1775. (The Spink family, being especially noteworthy, will be treated briefly at the end of this sketch). By a deed of gift made on March 10, 1788,<sup>3</sup> Edward Burch gave "Burches Venture" to his sons Samuel Lewis Burch and Jesse Burch. Edward Burch died in Maryland about 1795. His widow, in the company of her Spink relatives, migrated to Kentucky and settled in Washington County about 1798. Children of Edward Burch and Ann Spink were

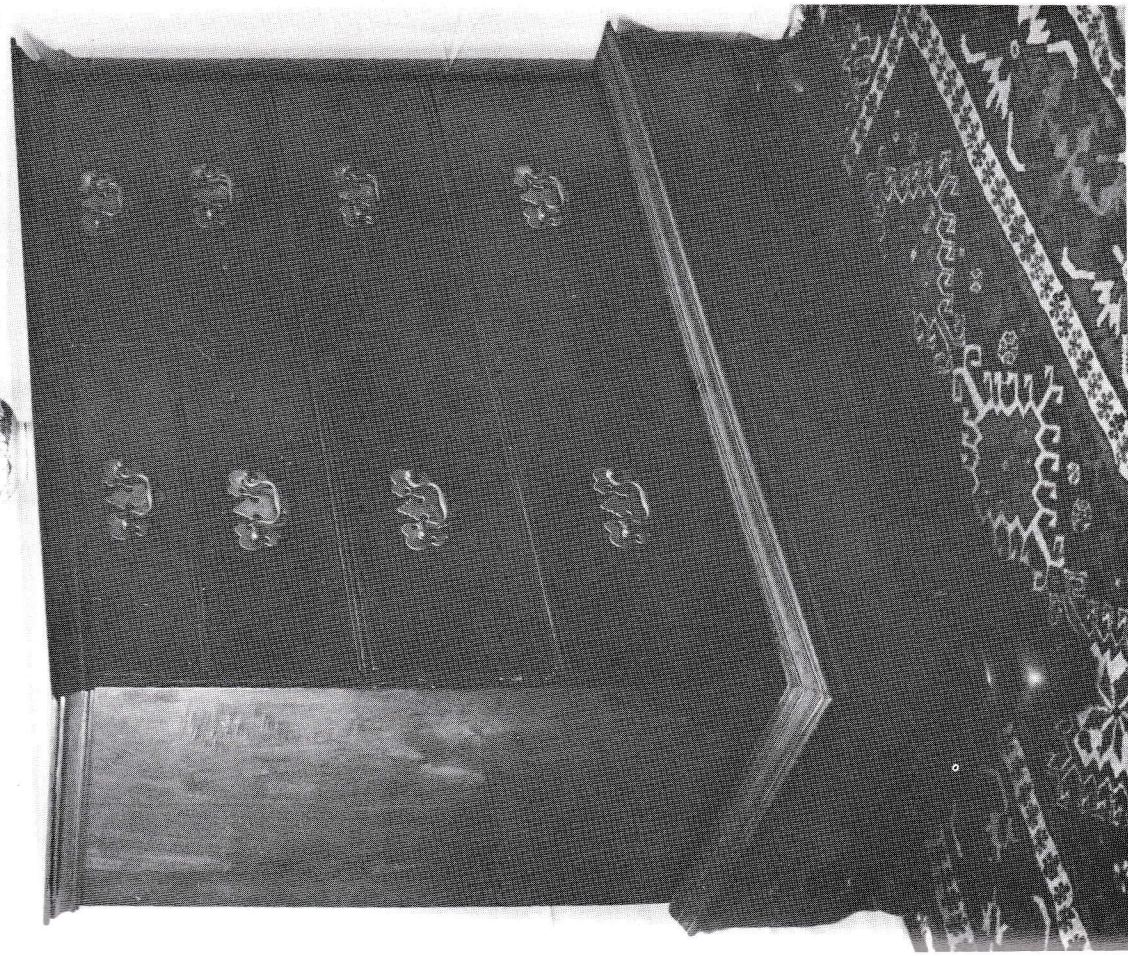
1. Samuel Lewis Burch (vi) 1782–1853)
2. Jesse Burch. (vi)
3. Eleanor Burch, (vi) married Nicholas Mudd.
4. Alexious Burch. (vi)
5. Edward H. Burch. (vi)

VI. Samuel Lewis Burch (vi) 1782–1853) was born in Prince Georges County, Maryland.<sup>4</sup> He went to Kentucky with his

<sup>2</sup> This tract of 100 acres lay within the present limits of Washington, D.C., on the Anacostia River.

<sup>3</sup> Deed Records of Prince Georges County, Maryland.

<sup>4</sup> He inherited "Burches Venture" from his father and sold it about 1807.



CHEST OF DRAWERS OF CHERRY BELONGING ORIGINALLY TO JUSTINIAN BURCH MADE IN MARYLAND C. 1720; BROUGHT TO TEXAS C. 1829 BY SAMUEL LEWIS BURCH NOW IN POSSESSION OF JOHN POINDEXTER LANDERS (X1a).

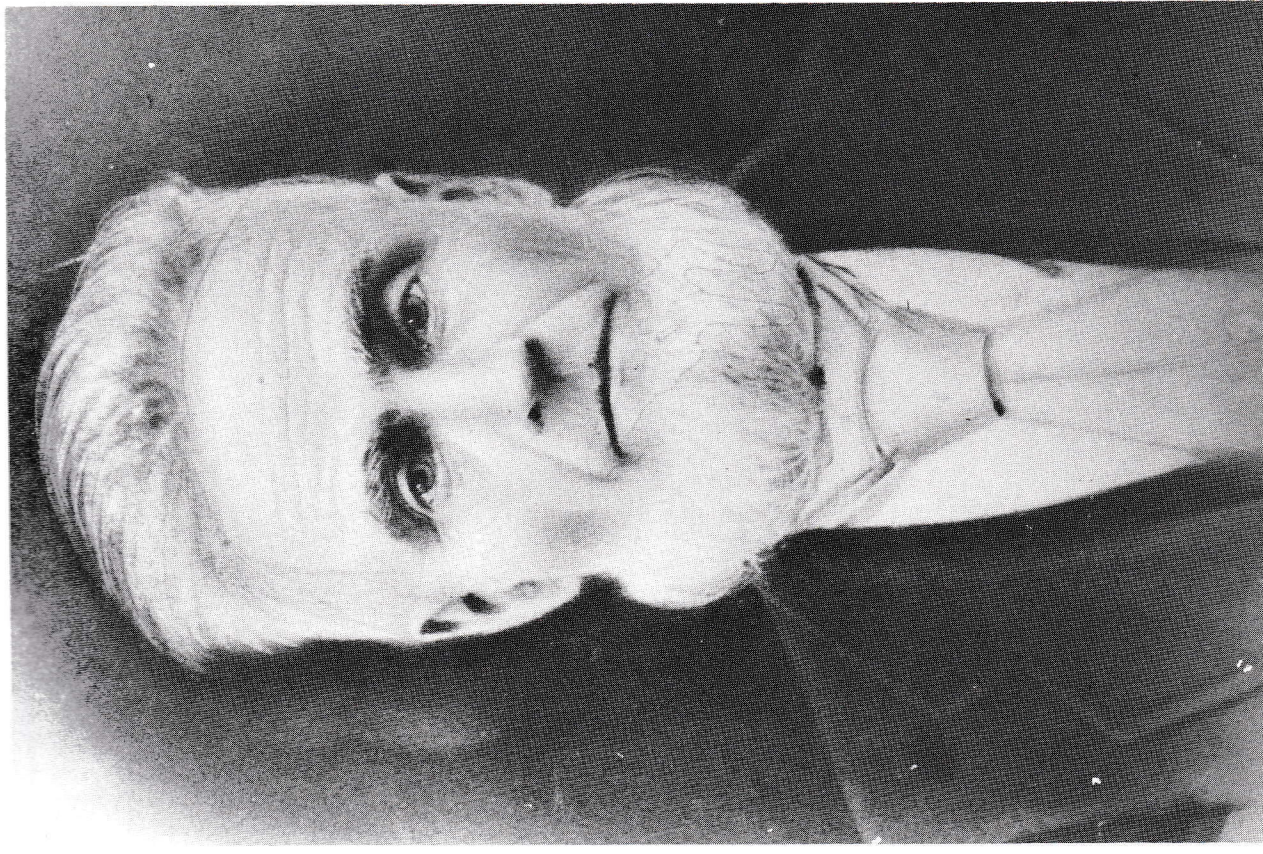


mother and family at an early age. In 1812 he married Dorothea Browne, daughter of Nicholas Browne, of an old Maryland Catholic family. The couple settled near Bardstown Junction in Bullitt County, Kentucky, and lived there until about 1829, when they came to Texas by flatboat on the Ohio, Mississippi, and Red Rivers, and settled near San Augustine, later near Moscow in Polk County. Samuel L. Burch was given a headright of 4,600 acres in Wood County by the Republic of Texas. Samuel Lewis Burch died in Polk County, Texas in 1853. Children were:

1. Valentine Ignatius Burch (vii) (1813-1892).
2. James Burch. (vii)
3. William Burch. (vii)
4. Samuel L. Burch. (vii)
5. Benedict Burch. (vii)
6. Catherine Burch, (vii) married ——— Richards.
7. Matilda Burch, (vii) married David Griggs Green, founder of Moscow, Texas.
8. Ann Burch, (vii) married Marshall Holcombe.

VII. Valetine Ignatius Burch, (vii) son of Samuel Lewis Burch (vi) and Dorothea Browne, was born on February 14, 1813, in Bullitt County, Kentucky. Having come to Texas c. 1829 with his parents, he participated in the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836 and took part in the impetuous charge which defeated the Mexican forces led by Juan Almonte. He was awarded 640 acres in Polk and Tyler Counties for his service during the Revolution. About 1840 he married Helen Elmira Cauble, daughter of Peter Cauble and Mary Jane Rotan, and settled in Polk County, later at Peach Tree Village, Tyler County, Texas. He was a well-educated planter, a member of the Texas Veterans Association, and revered citizen. He died in 1892 and was buried in the Burch-Cauble cemetery after a Mass said by the Bishop of Galveston.<sup>5</sup> The children of Valentine and Helen Burch were

<sup>5</sup> See John P. Landers, "Valentine Burch," *Texana*, vol. 3, no. 2, p. 114. On November 24, 1849 in Deed Book A of Tyler County, Peter Cauble deeded 384 acres of land to his son-in-law, Valentine Burch for \$500 in gold. Burch had about 10 slaves in 1860. His home was a popular resort for early Catholic missionary priests. He had a private chapel there and a school for his children. He was said to punish errant slaves by putting them to bed and nursing them as if they were sick.



VALENTINE IGNATIUS BURCH (VII) 1813-1892) VETERAN OF THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO.





THE DAUGHTERS OF VALENTINE BURCH: BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: EMMA CLEMENTINE AND MARY BURCH; FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: ANGELINE BURCH, LATER POINDEXTER (VIII), AND MATILDA BURCH, C. 1863.

1. James Burch. (viii)
2. Valentine Burch. (viii)
3. Angeline Burch, (viii) (1846-1928); married Robert L. Poindexter (see later).
4. Matilda Burch, (viii) married ——— Gardner, of Louisiana.
5. Peter Burch. (viii)
6. Mary Burch, (viii) married Fayette Lewis.
7. Samuel L. Burch, (viii) married Aurelia Kirby, sister of John Henry Kirby.

8. Emma Clementine Burch, (viii) married John Hammond. VIII. Angeline Burch (viii) was born on September 13, 1846, in Polk County, Texas;<sup>6</sup> she was educated at home and for a time at Ursuline Academy in Galveston. On January 22, 1867, she married Robert Lynn Poindexter (see his biographical sketch). She died at Lufkin, Texas, on December 19, 1928. (The Burch family was connected by blood and marriage with such Maryland families as Carroll, Magruder, Spalding, Dent, as well as those given herein.)

<sup>6</sup> She is mentioned in the U. S. Census of 1850 in the household of her father, Valentine Burch in Trinity County, Texas, where the family lived briefly before moving to Tyler County.

## THE SPINK FAMILY

1. The founder of the Spink family in America was Henry Spink (or Spinke), (i) who was born near Ripon in Yorkshire, England, about 1621, of an old Catholic family. Because of the religious persecution in England, he came to St. Mary's County, Maryland, probably on the "Ark" or the "Dove" in 1634 as an indentured servant to Capt. Nicholas Harvey. (Catholic boys often paid their passage in this way.) He settled near New Town, on Breton's Bay.<sup>1</sup> He later married Eleanor Edwards and became a wealthy planter before his death in 1695, when he bequeathed 1,200 acres of land, and much tobacco, cattle, etc. He had been one of the founders of St. Ignatius Church, the

<sup>1</sup> For many years he was Deputy to the High Sheriff of St. Mary's County.



oldest Catholic church in the English colonies, where he was buried. His children were

1. Edward Spink (II) (c. 1660-1717).
2. Francis Spink (II) (d. 1719).
3. Henry Spink (II) (d. 1719).
4. William Spink (II) (d. 1698).

II. Edward Spink (II) (c. 1660-1717) son of Henry Spink (I) and Eleanor Edwards, was born in St. Mary's County, Maryland and lived there all his life as a Catholic planter. In his will he left the plantations of "Twittenham" and "Hickory Hollows" to his heirs, who were

1. William Spink (III) (c. 1700-1760).
2. Elizabeth Spink. (III)
3. Margaret Spink. (III)
4. Mary Spink. (III)

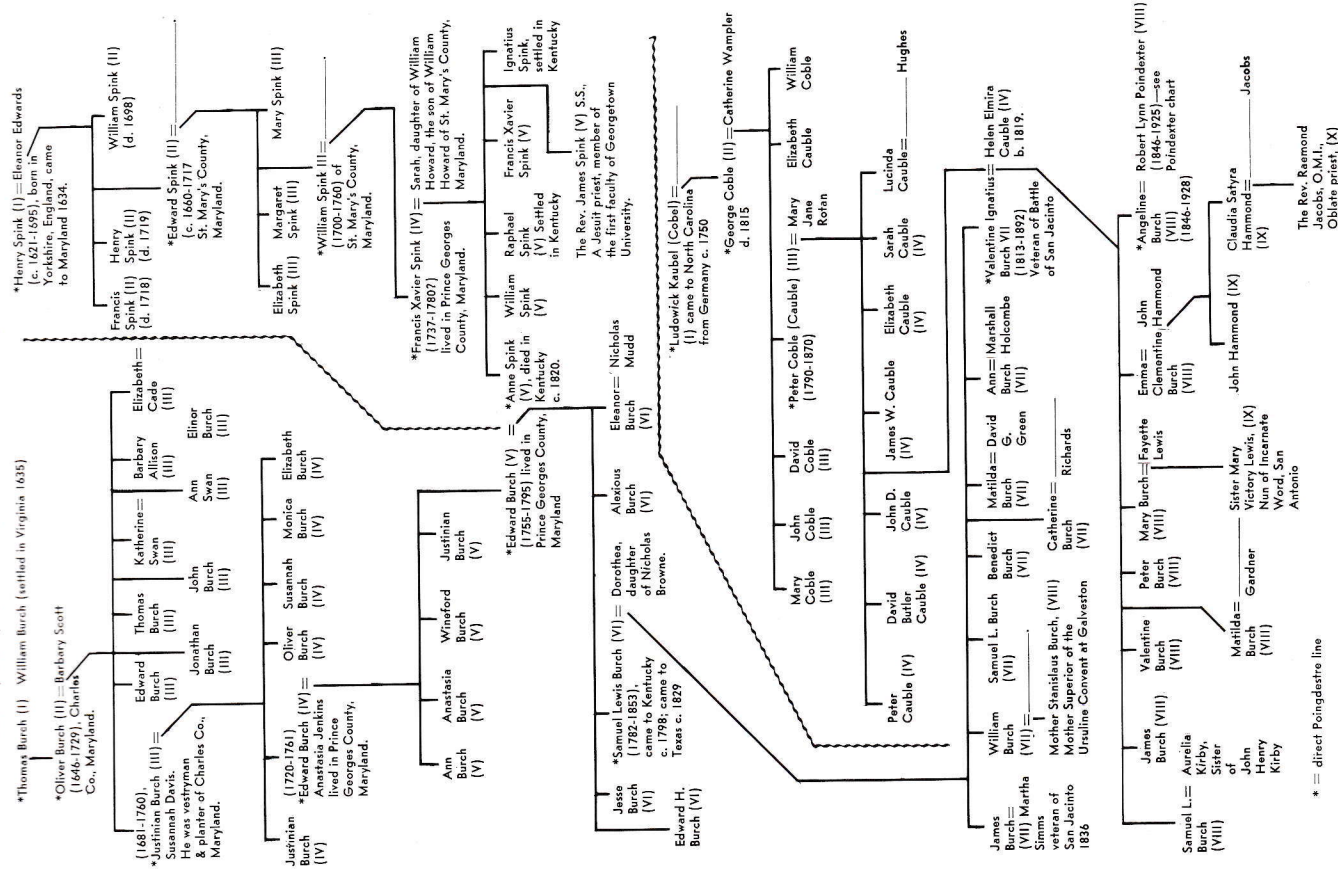
III. William Spink (c. 1700-1760) was the son of Edward Spink (II) (1660-1717) and, like his father was a planter of St. Mary's County, Maryland. The name of his wife is not known. He died intestate, but other land transactions and family records reveal that his son was

IV. Francis Xavier Spink, (IV) who was born in St. Mary's County, Maryland, in 1737. He married Sarah Howard, daughter of William Howard, a Catholic planter of the same county, and descendant of the ancient Howard family of England, of which the Dukes of Norfolk form another branch. The father of William Howard was also William Howard, who immigrated to Maryland about 1640. Francis Xavier Spink and his wife Sarah Howard moved to Prince Georges County, Maryland, and settled in Prince Georges Parish. The census of 1776 lists them as having five children and one slave.<sup>2</sup> The children were

1. William Spink. (V)
2. Raphael Spink, (V) settled in Washington County, Kentucky.
3. Francis Xavier Spink. (V)

<sup>2</sup> The heirs of Francis X. Spink inherited 104 acres, called "Hurley's Fancy White Marshes," lying in the District of Columbia. They sold it about 1800, after they had moved to Washington County, Kentucky.

BURCH, SPINK, AND ALLIED FAMILIES OF MARYLAND, KENTUCKY, AND TEXAS





4. The Rev. James Spink, (v) S.J., a Jesuit priest and a member of the first faculty of Georgetown University.
5. Sarah Spink. (v)
6. Ignatius Spink, (v) settled in Washington County, Kentucky.
7. Ann Spink (v) who married Edward Burch (v) in Prince Georges County, Maryland, October 15, 1779. (See sketch on Edward Burch (v) above.)

Descendants of the Burch and Spink families in Texas possess several interesting heirlooms dating back even to colonial days and beyond. Besides the papers of Samuel Lewis Burch and his sons James and Valentine, which now repose in the Archives of the University of Texas and which contain items dating back as far as 1780 in Maryland, a set of American history books once belonging to Samuel Lewis Burch is in the possession of a descendant in Beaumont. Perhaps the most interesting heirloom of all is a scythe, now owned by Mrs. R. L. Rothe of Corrigan, Texas. It is of very ancient make and is said to have been brought to Maryland in the Seventeenth Century from England by the progenitor of the Burch family. (It will be recalled that Edward Burch (1720-1761) owned a tract of land which was named "Scythe" in honor of this heirloom). The writer owns a pair of pewter candlesticks which once belonged to Francis Xavier Spink (1737-c. 1800) and his wife Sarah Howard. These were used in the family chapel for the celebration of Mass and have been carried consecutively from Maryland to Kentucky, to Texas.

The Spink family and their descendants through the Burch family have the distinction of being one of the few families of pure English origin to have remained Roman Catholic from the Middle Ages to the present (in the line of J. P. Landers) without a break.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Burch, Birch Family*; by Marilu Burch Smallwood.

#### THE CAUBLE FAMILY

The Cauble, (Kaubel, Kobel, Coble) family were part of the colony of German Protestants who came from the Palatinate of the Rhine and settled in Guilford County, North Carolina, and adjoining counties about 1750. The original immigrant was Ludowick Coble (v). George Coble (ii) (d. 1815) was probably the son of Ludowick Cauble, the immigrant.

Peter Cauble, (iii)<sup>1</sup> the father of Helen Elmira Cauble (iv) (wife of Valentine Burch), was born in Orange or Guilford County, North Carolina, in 1790. His father was George Cauble, (ii) who married Catherine Wampler. George (ii) died in Orange County in 1815. In his will he mentioned the following children:

1. John Coble. (iii)
2. David Coble. (iii)
3. Peter Coble. (iii) (1790-1870) (see later).
4. William Coble. (iii)
5. Elizabeth Coble. (iii)
6. Mary Coble. (iii)

Peter Cauble (iii) left North Carolina after his father's death in 1815, living briefly in Tennessee (probably Lincoln County), where he married Mary Jane Rotan of South Carolina. The couple moved from there to Alabama, where Helen Elmira Cauble was born in 1819.

Peter Cauble brought his family to East Texas about 1831 and lived briefly near San Augustine. He settled in present Tyler County in 1835 at Peach Tree Village, the site of an Indian Village. There he built a large "double" log house consisting of four rooms with a central hall. Later other rooms were added and the house was weatherboarded. When Polk County was created in 1846, the residence of Peter Cauble was mentioned in the legislative act as standing near the northern boundary of the said county. This house is still standing (1975).

He purchased land in the Gavino Aranjó League and engaged

<sup>1</sup> Peter Cauble generally used the "au" spelling, though at times his name appears as "Coble" in the records of Tyler County.



in farming and ranching. He participated in the Texas Revolution and was awarded 640 acres in Polk County by the Republic of Texas for his services.

Peter Cauble was an early teacher in Tyler County and was referred to as "Professor" Cauble. The U. S. Census of 1860 for Tyler County, Texas, listed Peter Cauble with his family. He owned ten slaves and real estate worth \$5,000; and personal estate worth \$14,500. He was Justice of the Peace for his precinct. In 1870 the steamboat "Albert Gallatin" docked on the Neches River near Peach Tree Village. A dance was given on deck attended by the Burches, Caudles, Kirbys and other leading families of Tyler County.

Peter Cauble died on March 8, 1870, and was buried in the Cauble-Burch cemetery at Peach Tree Village. His wife, Mary Rotan, died on November 9, 1860.

The children of Peter Cauble (iii) and Mary Jane Rotan were

1. David Butler Cauble (iv) (settled in McClennan County).
2. Peter Cauble. (iv)
3. John D. Cauble. (iv)
4. James W. Cauble. (iv)
5. Helen Elmira Cauble (iv) (born in Alabama 1819); married Valentine Ignatius Burch. (See above)
6. Elizabeth Cauble, (iv) married ——— Osborn.
7. Sarah Cauble. (iv)
8. Lucinda Cauble, (iv) married ——— Hughes.

#### THE NINTH GENERATION:

##### DR. JOHN REAMS POINDEXTER (ix)

Dr. John Reams Poindexter was born on November 13, 1867 at Peach Tree Village in Tyler County, Texas, at the plantation home of his maternal grandfather Valentine Ignatius Burch, a veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto. Dr. Poindexter was the son of Robert Lynn Poindexter (viii) and Angeline Burch.

As a boy John R. Poindexter attended a private academy known as Peach Tree School or "Crow School," and organized by Valentine Burch, R. L. Poindexter, and other prominent planters of the locality in 1879. It was conducted by Professor

Frank P. Crow. Thereafter, young Poindexter himself assumed the task of teaching the younger pupils and was finally placed in charge of the school. On July 3, 1892 he married Larissa Anna Powell, daughter of the Rev. James Monroe Powell and his wife, Christiana Elizabeth Fulgham. Miss Powell, known affectionately as "Miss Anna," also taught school at Peach Tree Village. (For further information regarding the Powell and Fulgham families, see sketch following this biography.)

The couple soon moved to Woodville, where J. R. Poindexter became superintendent of schools. In about a year after their marriage, J. R. Poindexter went to Louisville, Kentucky, and attended the dental school of the University of Kentucky.

Upon his return to Woodville, he practiced dentistry for several years, moving later to Colmesneil and then to Lufkin about 1897.

Dr. Poindexter lived for a short time in Quanah and Stephen-successively (c. 1905-1910) and practiced dentistry in both places. In Quanah he served as president of the board of education. In 1910 the family settled in Temple, Bell County, Texas.

In Temple, likewise, Dr. Poindexter set up a dental office and practiced for almost forty years. He was known especially for his ability to make casts and plates and for his advanced surgical techniques. He was always skilled at handicrafts and carpentry and was quite inventive mechanically. He also served on the Temple school board for many years.

During his career he was prominent in civic and educational circles and was a member of the state committee which was instrumental in the standardization of public school textbooks throughout the state. For many years he was a member of the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners.

Dr. John Reams Poindexter and his wife, Larissa Powell Poindexter, were both well-known speakers. Mrs. Poindexter taught parliamentary law for years and organized a number of women's clubs. She was active in the movement for women's suffrage and campaigned successfully for the election of Governor W. P. Hobby of Moscow. In July of 1919 she was appointed by him to the board of directors of the State Boys' Training School at Gatesville, Texas.





DR. JOHN REAMS POINDEXTER (IXa) (1867-1956).

At the reunion of the alumni of the Crow School at Peach Tree Village in 1929 both Dr. and Mrs. Poindexter made brief addresses, which are preserved in the book commemorating that event.

The following are the texts of their speeches and the introductions to them:

Dr. John R. Poindexter of Temple, presided at the morning session. In dropping the gavel or "taking up books," he spoke as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen, and Former Schoolmates: We are assembled here this morning to celebrate an event which took place in this community fifty years ago. This event was a school taught by Professor Frank P. Crow of Woodville. I am happy to tell you that he is here, our guest of honor at this reunion.

This school was the beginning of an educational program which gave impetus to intellectual advancement which to this good day has moved forward in the lives of our generation, and in the lives of the generation coming after us.

This is a fitting spot to hold such a memorable observance. Our host, John Henry Kirby, has made it a social and historical shrine for several years. I am glad to voice your and my indebtedness to him for this happy occasion. Let us spend these days in recounting the pleasures of the past, exchanging greetings and news of the present, and cheerily setting expectant faces toward the future.

This locality is a goodly land and the pioneers whose plans set in motion this school and persevered to its accomplishment were forward-looking and progressive citizens. They lived, loved, labored, and achieved, thus setting us an example worthy of our cherishing and emulating efforts.

The silence of these hills and forests at that time was not broken by the roar of passing trains, the honk of automobiles, the ring of telephones, the rush of airplanes or the music and messages of radios, but it did as sweetly resound to the noise of wagon trains, cow bells, the ploughman's "whoa and gee," the hunter's horn, and the song of pretty maidens. Bear with me patiently for growing a bit reminiscent. Our program for the morning session is before us and we will at this time have the invocation.<sup>1</sup>

Mrs. Poindexter's talk followed at a later time in the reunion:

Mr. Kirby called up several who did not occupy a place on the

<sup>1</sup> *Reunion of the "Crow School,"* by John Henry Kirby (Houston, 1929), p. 20.



program. Among these was Mrs. John R. Poindexter of Temple, whose husband was reared in the Peach Tree Village neighborhood. She responded as follows:

Mr. Chairman and friends: To say I am glad to be here is stating my emotions at this moment mildly. I count it a happy privilege to be a guest at this party. Many years have come and gone since I have visited by childhood home and friends.

I have wandered here and there and have made many friends and acquaintances in other places, but in my affections I have reserved the chief place for the long ago.

I acknowledge Mr. Kirby's pleasant banter. I did not go to Mr. Crow's school. But I do recall how honored I used to feel on the occasion of Mr. Crow's visit to our home. Our circumscribed childish spheres were so brightened by visits from esteemed and important personalities. My own childhood was made more interesting by many such visits.

To me East Texas is a great section of the State. Nowhere else in the world do the wild flowers bloom so beautifully or the birds sing half so sweet. To state these loving and beautiful sentiments of mine simply in words must suffice as proof from me, but not so with our host, Mr. Kirby, who has adequately proven his deep and abiding estimation to old friends and childhood home by these beautiful buildings and months of planning and executing to bring to fruition this wonderful party. Let us enjoy it to the fullest extent.<sup>2</sup>

John Reams Poindexter was solemnly baptized in the Roman Catholic Church at Nacogdoches in 1868 by the Rev. P. Hennessy<sup>3</sup> and was named for his great-uncle, John Reams Mainer. He was also a Mason during the adult years of his life. He and his cousin, John Henry Kirby, organized the reunions that were held at Peach Tree Village in the 1920's and '30's.

After his retirement he moved with his wife to Crystal City. She died there in 1948, and Dr. Poindexter died there on June 19, 1956, at Crystal Hospital and Clinic, an institution belonging to and operated by his son, Dr. Cary Allen Poindexter. He was buried at Crystal City, after a Solemn Requiem Mass.

The children of Dr. John Reams Poindexter(1xa) and his wife, Larissa Anna Powell Poindexter were

1. Charles Manning Poindexter(xa) (died at birth).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 69.

<sup>3</sup> Baptismal records of Catholic Church, Nacogdoches, Texas.

2. Ruby Glenwood Poindexter,(xa) born March 26, 1894. B.A., Baylor University, M.A., University of Texas: Married C. L. Lackey. Children:

- a. Carey Lee Lackey, Jr. (xia) born December 17, 1923; died 1976; B.S. and M.S., University of Texas, petroleum engineer; married Esther McGinnis; children:

- 1.) Silva Lackey(xia), born 1953

- 2.) Warren Morris Lackey(xia), born 1954

- 3.) Mark Lackey(xia), born 1957

3. Myrtie Gladys Poindexter,(xa) born June 10, 1895. Married, September 2, 1919, John Henry Landers. Children:
  - a. John Poindexter Landers,(xia) born May 9, 1931. S.T.B. M.A. (For more information, see later).

4. Cary Allen Poindexter(xa) born June 7, 1897 at Colmesneil, Texas. B.S., M.D., University of Texas. Surgeon. Married first, Clifford Craig. Children.

- a. Allan Moore Poindexter,(xia) born March 15, 1924. B.S., M.S., University of Texas. Physicist.

- b. Craig Poindexter,(xia) born June 10, 1931. B.S., M.D., University of Texas. Orthopedic surgeon. Married Judy Haygood. Children:

- 1.) Allan Craig Poindexter. (xua), born 1958

- 2.) Mark Calhoun Poindexter. (xua)

- 3.) Cynthia Poindexter. (xua)

Married second, Edna Butler; no children.

Married third, Genevieve Birdwell. Children:

- c. Powell Emerson Poindexter,(xia) born June 26, 1956.

- d. Larissa Anna Poindexter. (xia)

5. Margaret Walker Poindexter,(xa) born June 5, 1899; died 1959; B.A., Baylor University. Married Robert B. Simmons. Children:

- a. Robert Bruce Simmons(xia) B.S., Texas A & M University. Architect. Daughter:

1. Leigh Boisclair Simmons. (xua), born 1953

6. Rex Dudley Poindexter,(xa) born February 17, 1902 at Lufkin, Texas. Pioneer oil man of Houston. Married Adeline Booth. No children.

7. Blanche Ross Poindexter,(xa) born July 26, 1906, at Ste-



phenville, Texas. Married Otis L. Vaden. Children:

a. Otis Lynn Vaden, (xia) born June 18, 1927. M.D., Vanderbilt University. Orthopedic surgeon; married Sally Ericson, November 4, 1956. Son:

1. Oakley Lynn Vaden, (xia) born December 23, 1957.

#### POWELL, FULGHAM, AND ALLIED FAMILIES

Since the records of Elizabeth City County, Virginia, have been destroyed, it is impossible to prove absolutely the link between the first and second generations mentioned herein, but circumstantial evidence of the strongest sort makes this connection reasonably certain. This Powell family immigrated to Virginia from Wales.

I. John Powell, born 1580, came to Virginia on the "Swallow" in 1609. He married Katherine —, who came in the "Flying Hart" in 1622. John Powell (I) became a colonel of militia and a Burgess of Elizabeth City County in 1632. He died after 1638. His children were

1. John Powell, (II) Burgess 1657.
2. Richard Powell, (II) of Norfolk County (see later).
3. William Powell, (II) of Norfolk County.
4. Henry Powell, (II) of Norfolk County.

II. Richard Powell, (III) son of John Powell (I) and Katherine —, was born in Virginia about 1625. He married Elizabeth probably a daughter of Thomas Boulting of Elizabeth City. Richard Powell died in 1658. Their children were

1. Richard Powell, (III) born 1645 (see later).
2. John Powell, (III) born 1650.
3. William Powell, (III) born c. 1647.

III. Richard Powell, (III) son of Richard Powell (II) and Elizabeth Boulting (?), was born in 1645. He married Susannah, daughter of William and Mary Clements, and died in 1673. Their children were

1. Richard Powell, (IV) born 1667/8.
2. John Powell, (IV) born 1670/71 (see later).
3. William Powell, (IV) born 1672/3.
4. Elizabeth Powell, (IV) born c. 1669.

IV. John Powell, (IV) son of Richard Powell (III) and Susannah Clements, was born about 1670, in Norfolk County, Virginia. He married Marian, daughter of Thomas Smith II and Alice —.<sup>1</sup> John Powell died c. 1749 in Perquimans County, North Carolina. They had the following children:

1. Lemuel Powell, (V) born about 1693.
2. John Powell, (V) born about 1695.
3. George Powell, (V) born about 1697 (see later).
4. Robert Powell, (V) born about 1699.
5. Elizabeth Powell, (V) married John Wimberley.
6. Francis Powell, (V) of Nansemond County.

V. George Powell, (V) son of John Powell (IV) and Marian Smith, was born about 1694 in Norfolk County, Virginia. He married Ann, daughter of Lewis Conner, of Norfolk County, and his wife, Elizabeth Daines, daughter of Sir William Daines of Bristol, England. George Powell was in Bertie County, North Carolina, by 1719. In January of 1728 he was granted 300 acres of land in Chowan County. George Powell left a will dated March 24, 1735, which was probated in 1736. He left land to his sons Cader, George, and Lewis Powell, and a negro to each of his four sons Cader, George, Lewis, and Moses Powell. Thus the children of George Powell (V) and Ann Conner were

1. Cader Powell, (VI) born c. 1715.
2. George Powell, (VI)
3. Lewis Powell, (VI) born c. 1720.
4. Moses Powell, (VI) born c. 1725-30 (see later).

VI. Moses Powell, (VI) son of George Powell (V) and Ann Conner was born in Bertie County, North Carolina, about 1725-30. He married Mary, daughter of Anthony Williams and his wife, Martha Bush, daughter of William and Martha Bush of Chowan County. Anthony and Martha Williams moved to Duplin County, North Carolina, where he died in 1752 and left a will, wherein he mentioned "daughter Mary, wife of Moses Powell, and grandson Cader Powell." Moses Powell (VI) was in the militia of Duplin County in 1766, and soon there-

<sup>1</sup> All the successions given thus far are based on wills, deeds, and other court records of Elizabeth City and Norfolk Counties, Virginia.



after moved to Edgefield County, South Carolina, where he was granted land. By 1774 he was living in Wilkes County, Georgia, where in August of that year he signed a protest of the inhabitants of St. Paul's Parish against resolutions passed by the patriots on the coast. He, however, served in the Revolution and is mentioned in Knight's *Georgia Roster of the Revolution* with his sons Cader, Lewis, and Benjamin. Moses Powell died in Wilkes County, Georgia, about 1799. Before his death he made a deed of gift of 1789, wherein he mentioned the following children and gave them slaves, land and chattels:

1. Cader Powell, (vii) born April 2, 1753 (see later).
2. Penelope Powell, (vii) married William Lamar.
3. Charity Powell, (vii) married Evan Harvey.
4. Lewis Powell, (vii) born c. 1758.
5. Moses Powell, (vii) married Sally Maddux.
6. Benjamin Powell, (vii) married Mary Lybas.

VII. Cader Powell, (vii) son of Moses Powell and Mary Williams, was born on April 2, 1753 in North Carolina.<sup>2</sup> He moved with his parents to South Carolina and then to Wilkes County, Georgia, about 1774. He served in the American Revolution, as a militia soldier, as mentioned previously in Knight. On March 18, 1774, he married Honoria Douglas, born on August 7, 1758, in Richmond County, Georgia. Cader Powell (vii) died in Richmond County, Georgia, on January 7, 1809. Their children were

1. William Powell, (viii) born 1782 (see later).
2. Nelson Powell, (viii)
3. Benjamin Powell, (viii)
4. Cader Powell, (viii)

VIII. William R. Powell, (viii) the son of Cader Powell and Honoria Douglas, was born on October 2, 1782 in Richmond County, Georgia. Honoria Douglas Powell died on March 8, 1814 in Elbert County, Georgia. William R. Powell was the administrator of the estate. He was given 50 acres on Cedar

<sup>2</sup> All the dates given for Cader Powell, (vii) his son William, (viii) and grandson James (ix) are taken from the Bible Records of Archibald Laird and his wife Honor Powell Laird (x) (1872-1860), and from the Bible of her father James Powell (ix) (1804-1848).

Creek. He married Mary McMullen on February 27, 1802. He died on November 15, 1852 in Elbert County, Georgia. The children of William R. Powell (viii) and Mary McMullen were

1. William Powell, (ix)
2. Lewis Powell, (ix)
3. Honoria Powell, (ix)
4. James Powell, (ix) born March 10, 1804 (see later).
5. Cader Powell, (ix)

IX. James Powell, (ix) the son of William R. Powell (viii) and Mary McMullen, was born on March 10, 1804, in Elbert County, Georgia. About 1821 he migrated to Mississippi, where he married on December 27, 1825, Sarah Futch,<sup>3</sup> born on June 1, 1805 in Bulloch County, Georgia. James Powell (ix) was a member of the Mississippi Legislature about 1833. James Powell settled for a few years in the present Jasper County, Texas, about 1835, and then returned to Mississippi. He died in Rankin County, Mississippi, on January 19, 1848. The children of James Powell (ix) and Sarah Futch were

1. Vincent Powell, (x) a Baptist minister.
2. Cader Powell, (x)
3. Lewis Powell, (x)
4. John Powell, (x)
5. Ransom Powell, (x) moved to Tyler County, Texas.
6. Hiram Powell, (x) moved to Tyler County, Texas.
7. Harvey Powell, (x) born February 26, 1827 (see later).
8. Honor Powell, (x) born February 26, 1827; married Archibald Laird and settled in Tyler County, Texas.
9. Harriett Powell, (x)

X. Harvey Powell, (x)<sup>4</sup> the son of James Powell (ix) and Sarah Futch, was born in Rankin County, Mississippi, on February 26, 1827, the twin brother of Honor Powell. He was taken as a child to present Jasper County, Texas, about 1835, but returned to Mississippi with his parents a few years later. He married

<sup>3</sup> The Futch family of Georgia were members of the original Salzburg German colony which settled near Savannah in 1735 and founded the settlement of Ebenezer.

<sup>4</sup> James Powell (ix) probably named his son for his great aunt, Charity Powell Harvey.



ried Elizabeth Hill in Mississippi about 1846. The couple lived in Simpson County, Mississippi, where they are listed in the U. S. Census of 1850 with their oldest son, Monroe. Late in 1850 Harvey Powell returned to Texas with his family and settled on Russell's Creek in Tyler County, about four miles from Peach Tree Village. There Harvey Powell died on July 26, 1863. Elizabeth Powell died in Angelina County, on April 29, 1903 and is buried at Keltys. The children<sup>5</sup> of Harvey Powell (x) and Elizabeth Hill were

1. James Monroe Powell (xi) born in 1848 (see later).
2. Cader B. Powell, (xi) settled in Angelina County; died 1917.
3. Roambus Powell, (xi)
4. Honor Powell, (xi) married John Anderson.
5. Hiram Powell, (xi)
6. Necie Powell, (xi) married Tom Trevathan.

XI. James Monroe Powell, (xi) the son of Harvey Powell and Elizabeth Hill, was born in Simpson County, Mississippi, on December 27, 1848. He was brought to Tyler County, Texas, by his parents late in 1850 and was reared there. He obtained his education sporadically at schools in the neighborhood, but in later years he manifested his learning in his love of reading and in his letters and other writings, some of which remain. (The writer has several letters and notes written by him c. 1875-1910). He married Christiana Elizabeth Fulgham, daughter of Robert Cummins Fulgham, county judge of Tyler County, and his wife Eleanor Madoriah Kirkwood (see following sketches), on October 31, 1867. They lived at the Sulphur Spring, Tyler County, Texas. James Monroe Powell was an ordained Baptist minister and preached from about 1868 to 1912. He died at Leggett, Texas in 1921 and is buried with his wife in Lufkin. The children of James Monroe Powell (xi) and his wife, Christiana Elizabeth Fulgham, were

1. Larissa Anna Powell, (xii) born September 6, 1868; married Dr. John Reams Poindexter (ixa) (see Poindexter family).

<sup>5</sup> Information taken from letter of Larissa Anna Powell Poindexter, April 5, 1945, U.S. Census records, and Bible records.

2. Florence Elizabeth Powell, (xii) married Napoleon Guthridge Charlton and lived in Temple, Texas.
3. N. Vada Powell, (xii) born January 22, 1871; married ——— Sturrock.
4. Robert Harvey Powell, (xii) born October 22, 1876; married Nola Benton.
5. Bertie Dayle Powell, (xii) born December 9, 1881; married A. Jason Jones.
6. William Monroe Powell, (xii) born August 12, 1884; married Lola Gray.
7. Christiana Esma Powell (xii) born September 21, 1887; married J. S. Dunkelmann.
8. Beulah Ida Powell, (xii) born August 29, 1890; married Bascom Earl Anderson; settled in Austin, Texas.

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#### THE FOLJAMBE, FULGHAM FAMILY

It is not possible in the present brief survey to trace the English history, or even direct line of the first Virginia immigrant, Captain Anthony Fulgham. Suffice it to say that the Foljambes of Derbyshire in England are one of the oldest and most illustrious of the Anglo-Norman families who came over with William the Conqueror in 1066. They settled at Bakewell in Derbyshire by 1100, and the alabaster effigy of Sir Godfrey Foljambe (died 1380) ancestor of Captain Anthony Foljambe still exists in Bakewell Church. About 1300 the main line of the family settled on one of their manors called Walton, near Chesterfield. There Mary, Queen of Scots stayed for several days "at the house of Mr. Fulgeham besides Chesterfield" during her tragic flight from her enemies. Although originally spelled Foljambe, the name was spelled many ways in England, and the phonetic (for those days) spelling "Fulgham" became commoner in America, though in Anthony Fulgham's first Virginia land grant in 1643 it was spelled "Fulliamb." The American Fulgham family are direct descendants of Sir Godfrey



Foljambe (d. c. 1500) and his wife, Benedicta Vernon.

The Foljambe family were intermarried with such prominent English houses as Scrope, Neville and Vernon of Haddon Hall and were descended in the female line from Sir Richard le Brito, one of the murderers of St. Thomas à Becket.

Present English representatives of the family include George Foljambe of Osberton Hall, Nottinghamshire, and the Earl of Liverpool.

I. Captain Anthony Foljambe (or Fulgham) (I) was born in Derbyshire about 1610. He may have lived for a while in London and may have gone from there to Barbadoes, for he was later attorney for several persons from there. He came to Isle of Wight County, Virginia before 1643, when he patented 100 acres of land on Pagan Point. In 1650 he received 500 acres. He was later granted 1,600 acres by Governor Berkley for the importation of 30 immigrants to Virginia, and again received a similar grant of 1,000 acres for transporting 20 persons. In 1666 "Anthony Fulgeham, gent.," was a justice of the court of Isle of Wight County. He was also a captain of the county militia, and was one of the first vestrymen of historic St. Luke's Church. He died before May 2, 1670, intestate, when his wife, Martha, requested administration upon his estate. Her sureties were their sons, John Fulgham (II) and Michael Fulgham (I).

The children of Captain Anthony Fulgham (I) and Martha were

1. Anthony Fulgham, (II) a supporter of Nathaniel Bacon during the Rebellion of 1676 and a signer of the "Isle of Wight Grievances." He died without issue in 1676 and in his will gave "the land I live on" to his brother Nicholas; if no heirs, to brother Michael; if both die, to brother John Fulgham's son Anthony. His goods and crops were to go to his mother.

2. Michael Fulgham, (II) married Ann, relict of John Fener-year. He died before February 17, 1690/91 and in his will mentioned two plantations, brothers John and Nicholas, and the following children: son, Michael; daughters, Martha, Mary, Ann, Susan, and Ruth.

3. Nicholas Fulgham, (II) made his will on January 6, 1719,

probated in 1720. His children were Nicholas (died 1730), Charles, Joseph, Susannah, and Martha.

4. John Fulgham, (II) died 1705 (see following sketch).

II. John Fulgham, (II) the son of Captain Anthony Fulgham and Martha, married Anne, daughter of Thomas Parnell, who mentioned John in his will of 1687. John Fulgham (II) became a captain in the British navy in July of 1692. He may have been killed in the ship *Pendennis* in 1705. His will was dated June 7, 1701, but never probated, but was recorded in 1712. Therein he gave to his son John Fulgham land adjacent to Francis Williamson; to son Anthony land in the Swamp; a plantation to son Michael; and "the land I live on to wife Ann, to go to son Edmond after her death." The inventory (1729) of Anthony Fulgham, son of John Fulgham (II) (who inherited his father's effects) mentions several interesting items which refer to Jacobean and William and Mary style furniture: "nine old flag chairs," one large looking glass; one large table and form (bench); one small table and form; one old table; 2 leather chairs; 3 flag chairs; earthen and tin ware; parcel of pewter; negroes Frank, Doll, Rose and Pinke, 2 spinning wheels, etc.

Thus the children of Captain John Fulgham were

1. John Fulgham (III) (see later).

2. Anthony Fulgham. (III)

3. Michael Fulgham. (III)

4. Edmond Fulgham. (III)

III. John Fulgham, (III) the son of Captain John Fulgham (II) and Anne Parnell, also lived in Isle of Wight County, Virginia. He was a planter and a slaveholder there, and made his will on December 14, 1728, probated May 26, 1729. In the part of his will that has not been destroyed, he mentions the following sons:

1. John Fulgham (IV) (see later).

2. Anthony Fulgham, (IV) d. 1779; had sons, Jesse, Michael, Hezekiah, and Rodwell.

IV. John Fulgham, (IV) the son of John Fulgham, (III) lived as a planter of Isle of Wight County, Virginia. He married Mary, daughter of Arthur Purcell, Jr., who in his will of July 10, 1745, mentions his "daughter, Mary Fulgham." John Ful-



gham (iii) made his will on October 12, 1767, and it was probated on March 7, 1782. His inventory mentions land, furniture, and two slaves. In his will he mentions the following children:

1. John Fulgham (v) (see later).
2. Michael Fulgham. (v)
3. Edmund Fulgham. (v)
4. Patience Johnson. (v)
5. Martha Fulgham. (v)
6. Ann Fulgham. (v)

V. John Fulgham, (v) the son of John Fulgham (iv) and his wife Mary Purcell, was born about 1730 in Isle of Wight County, Virginia. He moved first to North Carolina, c. 1790, where he married in Halifax County, Elizabeth, daughter of William Powell, Jr., and Lucy Smith. (This Powell line is different from that of the Powell Family detailed in this chapter. William Powell, Jr. was a collateral descendant of Capt. Nathaniel Powell, acting governor of Virginia.)

John Fulgham (v) moved to Craven District (now Fairfield), South Carolina, about 1772, where he furnished supplies to the Continental Army during the Revolution. He settled in Montgomery County, Georgia, about 1790, where he died in 1801. His inventory mentions a plantation, furniture, tools, and four slaves.

The children of John Fulgham (v) and Elizabeth Powell were

1. Micajah Fulgham, (vi) born in 1767; married Rachel Taylor (see later).
2. Henry Fulgham, (vi) born in Craven District, South Carolina, on November 20, 1772. In 1797 he married Patience Sherrard. He was a member of the Georgia House of Representatives from 1805 to 1808, and a justice and State Senator from Pulaski County from 1810-13. He was a sergeant in the War of 1812 and moved to Lawrence County, Mississippi in 1817. He died on August 26, 1840, in Copiah County, Mississippi. His children were
  - a. Martha Fulgham. (vii)
  - b. Taliaferro Fulgham. (vii)
  - c. Priscilla Fulgham. (vii)

- e. Mary Fulgham. (vii)
- f. Sarah Fulgham. (vii)
- g. John Sherard Fulgham. (vii)

3. Jesse Fulgham, (vi) died in Georgia.

4. John Fulgham, (vi) probably settled in Alabama.

VI. Micajah Fulgham, (vi) the son of John Fulgham (v) and Elizabeth Powell, was born in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, on February 10, 1767.<sup>1</sup> He was well educated for his day and became a noted teacher and Baptist minister. He settled in Montgomery County, Georgia, with his father and brothers in 1790. About 1794 he married Rachel Taylor, the daughter of John Taylor. She was born in Virginia on January 7, 1777. Micajah Fulgham lived in Wilkinson and Twiggs Counties, Georgia, where he founded Cool Springs Baptist Meeting House in 1814 and was long the moderator of the Ebenezer Baptist Association. He left a will in Twiggs County, Georgia in 1816, but moved to Lawrence County, Mississippi in 1817, and settled on the Pearl River, where he died on May 1, 1824, leaving a codicil and will mentioning his children and wife.

The children of Micajah Fulgham (vi) and his wife, Rachel Taylor, were

1. Isaac Fulgham, (vii) born March 9, 1795.
2. Lucretia Fulgham, (vii) born November 19, 1796; married ——— Moses.
3. Jesse Fulgham, (vii) born January 30, 1792; died in Tyler County, Texas.
4. Irena Fulgham, (vii) born July 29, 1801; married ——— Phairy.
5. Henry Fulgham, (vii) born April 22, 1803.
6. James Hiram Fulgham, (vii) born May 28, 1805; died in Tyler County, Texas.
7. Edmund Brantly Fulgham, (vii) born June 14, 1807.
8. Ezekiel Taylor Fulgham, (vii) born October 17, 1809; married Katherine Kirkwood; died in Houston County, Texas.
9. George Franklin Fulgham, (vii) born June 26, 1812.

<sup>1</sup> All the dates used from this point onward in the chapter are taken from the Bible of Micajah Fulgham, now in the possession of the writer.



10. Sally Glenn Fulgham, (vii) born December 13, 1814.
11. Robert Cummins Fulgham, (vii) born February 6, 1817; married Eleanor M. Kirkwood (see later).
12. Allen Hill Fulgham, (vii) born July 26, 1820.

VII. Robert Cummins Fulgham, (vii) the son of Micajah Fulgham (vi) and his wife, Rachel Taylor, was born in Twiggs County, Georgia, on February 6, 1817. He was taken to Lawrence County, Mississippi by his parents, and was reared there. On March 8, 1838, he married Eleanor Madoriah Kirkwood, daughter of George Kirkwood and his wife Jane Calhoun, in Natchez, Mississippi. Shortly thereafter the couple moved to Tyler County, Texas, where they settled at Egypt. Robert C. Fulgham was given a grant of 640 acres in Tyler County by the Republic of Texas in 1839. He subsequently acquired other land and owned a plantation of about 1,000 acres and three slaves in 1860. He was a member of the first grand jury of Tyler County when it was formed in 1846.

Robert C. Fulgham was chief justice (county judge) of Tyler County, Texas from 1860 to 1867, when he was removed by the Reconstruction regime. He was tax assessor-collector of the county in 1890. For many years he was clerk and moderator of the Predestinarian Baptist Association of Louisiana and Texas. A number of printed programs and sermons composed by him still exist. He died on July 14, 1893, and is buried in old Egypt Cemetery, Tyler County, Texas. The children of Robert Cummins Fulgham (vii) and his wife Eleanor Madoriah Kirkwood were

1. Narcissa Jane Fulgham, (viii) born January 15, 1839; married ——— Bean.
2. Isaac Hill Fulgham, (viii) born August 22, 1841; killed near Richmond, Virginia in War Between the States.
3. Robert F. Fulgham, (viii) born June 7, 1843.
4. George Kirkwood Fulgham, (viii) born March 12, 1845; killed in War Between the States.
5. Rachel Ann Fulgham, (viii) born September 27, 1847; married ——— Goode.
6. Christina Elizabeth Fulgham, (viii) born October 24, 1849, in Tyler County, Texas; married James Monroe

Powell (see sketch on Powell family), on October 31, 1867. She was a genteel and kind lady, noted for her penmanship and embroidery. She died at Corrigan, Texas, on January 27, 1913.

7. Susan Cyrintia Fulgham, (viii) born December 8, 1851.
8. Madoriah Eleanor Fulgham, (viii) born February 5, 1854.
9. Hudson Micajah Fulgham, (viii) born November 9, 1859, O.S.P.
10. Lawson Bradley Fulgham, (viii) born January 22, 1866. married Olga McBride; postmaster of Voth, Texas for many years.

### THE COLQUHOUN-CALHOUN FAMILY

The family of Colquhoun is of ancient Scottish origin, its progenitor being Umphridus de Kilpatrick, who in the reign of King Alexander II, obtained the barony of Colquhoun and assumed the title as a surname. The seat of the family is the manor of Rosdhu,<sup>1</sup> near Luss on Loch Lomond.

Alexander Colquhoun, fifteenth Laird Colquhoun (1592-1617), had a grant of 1,000 acres in the Plantation of Ulster in the County of Donegal, Ireland. His son, Adam Colquhoun, (or Colhoun as it was spelled in Ireland), settled there permanently. The family became prominent in the counties of Donegal, Londonderry, and Tyrone.

Among the descendants of Alexander Colquhoun was

I. Patrick Calhoun, (i) born about 1680, either in Londonderry or Tyrone in Ireland. There he married Catherine, daughter of Hugh Montgomery. This couple immigrated with their children to America in 1733, settling briefly at Chestnut Level, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, but moving soon thereafter to Augusta County, Virginia. There Patrick Calhoun died in 1741. Catherine Montgomery Calhoun died in South Carolina in an Indian massacre. The children of Patrick Calhoun (i) and Catherine Montgomery were

1. Patrick Calhoun, (ii) member of the South Carolina As-

<sup>1</sup> Patrick Calhoun, father of John C. Calhoun, named his South Carolina plantation Rosdhu in remembrance of his ancestral home.



sembly; married Martha Caldwell. They were parents of  
 a. John Caldwell Calhoun (iii) (1782-1850) Secretary of War; Vice-President of the United States (1825-1832); and U.S. Senator

2. James Calhoun. (ii)
3. William Calhoun. (ii)
4. Ezekiel Calhoun. (ii)
5. Hugh Calhoun (ii) (see later).

II. Hugh Calhoun, (ii) the son of Patrick Calhoun (i) and Catherine Montgomery, was born, according to his will, in Fawney, County Tyrone, Ireland, about 1715. He immigrated to America in 1733 with his parents and settled first in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, then in Augusta County, Virginia. There Hugh Calhoun was a witness to a deed on 15 December 1749 together with his brothers James and Patrick Calhoun.<sup>2</sup> In 1756 the family moved again and settled permanently in Granville District, later Abbeville County, South Carolina on Long Cane Creek. There he married Jennett —.

In 1777 Hugh Calhoun signed a deed conveying 200 acres of land on a branch of the Northwest fork of Long Cane Creek, called Calhoun's Creek, stating in the deed that the land had been granted to him in 1760.<sup>3</sup> Hugh Calhoun made his will in 1794, and it was probated in 1799. He was buried in the Methodist cemetery at Cronaca, South Carolina.

The children of Hugh (ii) and Jennett Calhoun were

1. Hugh Sims Calhoun. (iii)
2. Ezekiel Calhoun (iii) (1766-1825) (See later).
3. Henry Calhoun. (iii)
4. Mary Calhoun; (iii) married John Morrow.

III. Ezekiel Calhoun, (iii) the son of Hugh Calhoun, (ii) and on December 23, 1766.<sup>4</sup> He was one of the subscribers for a new Hopewell church building in Abbeville in 1787. About 1820 he moved with his family to Lawrence County, Mississippi, where he maintained a plantation on White Sand Creek until his death

<sup>2</sup> Deed records of Augusta County, Virginia.

<sup>3</sup> Deed records of Abbeville County, South Carolina.

<sup>4</sup> Kirkwood-Calhoun family Bible.

on December 14, 1825. Lawrence County tax records reveal that he owned 12 slaves in 1824. Ezekiel Calhoun (iii) married Margaret — and had the following children:

1. Hugh Calhoun (iv) (died in Wisconsin)
2. Jane Calhoun (iv) (1794-1868); married George Kirkwood (see later).
3. Ezekiel W. Calhoun (iv) (1806-1842) prominent planter of Claiborne County, Mississippi.
5. Sarah P. Calhoun, (vi) died unmarried in Tyler County, Texas.
6. Henry N. Calhoun. (iv)
7. James E. Calhoun. (iv)
8. John D. Calhoun. (iv)

IV. Jane Calhoun, daughter of Ezekiel (iii) and Margaret Calhoun, was born in Abbeville County, South Carolina, on November 13, 1794. There on April 21, 1814, she married George Kirkwood<sup>5</sup> (see Kirkwood family). The Rev. Moses Waddell performed the ceremony, and the Honorable John C. Calhoun, then Secretary of War and cousin of the bride presented the couple with a set of china.<sup>6</sup> The couple moved to Lawrence County, Mississippi, in 1820, and to Tyler County, Texas in 1839. On his death in 1853, her brother, John D. Calhoun, of Port Gibson, Mississippi, left \$1,000 to his nephew "G. W. Kirkwood in Tyler County, Texas." (See sketch on George Kirkwood). Jane Calhoun Kirkwood died on September 29, 1868, in Tyler County, Texas.

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<sup>5</sup> In the church records Jane Calhoun was listed as "daughter of Ezekiel, son of Hugh Calhoun and wife Jennett."

<sup>6</sup> The pitcher belonging to this set is in possession of the writer (1975).



# KIRKWOOD FAMILY

Insofar as it can be ascertained at this time, the founder of the South Carolina branch of the Kirkwood family immigrated to Carolina directly from Ulster in Northern Ireland, where their forebears, together with other Scottish people, had settled in the Seventeenth Century. They probably stemmed from Kirkwood of Cloongoonagh, though this origin, too, is uncertain.

The first Kirkwood of note in South Carolina was James Kirkwood, of Charleston, a noted cabinet maker of that city who was born in 1716. He married Mary ——— and lived on Broad Street. He practiced his trade from 1747 until his death in 1781. A daughter, Catherine, was born in 1747. Robert Kirkwood, an architect and draughtsman of Charleston, who was active in 1795, may have been a son. The Abbeville family discussed in this chapter was descended from a man who was probably a brother of the abovementioned James Kirkwood.(1)

I. Hugh Kirkwood (1) made a will in Abbeville County, South Carolina, on October 10, 1779, which was proven on April 27, 1785. Therein we have most of the recorded information relevant to his life. He stated that he was a "Sergeant of the Second Company of Independents in the service of the State of South Carolina, being to all appearance at the point of death occasioned by a wound I received the 9th Instant in an attack made on the Town of Savannah." (As it developed, he did not die at that time). He mentions land on the waters of Little River. His executor was Major John Bowie, Esq. (his brother-in-law). The children are mentioned in other court records as:

1. Robert Kirkwood (1) (see later)
2. Nathan Kirkwood. (11)
3. Hugh Kirkwood. (11)
4. James Kirkwood. (11)

Sally Kirkwood, widow of Hugh Kirkwood, (1) died on February 2, 1808, and her estate was administered by George Bowie, Esq., next of kin.

II. Robert Kirkwood, (11) the son of Hugh Kirkwood (1) and Sarah Bowie, was born in South Carolina about 1760. The name of his wife is not known. In the U.S. Census of 1790 for Abbe-

ville County he had a wife, two males under 16, and one female under 16, as well as one slave. His children were

1. James Kirkwood. (111)
2. William Kirkwood. (111)
3. George Kirkwood (111) (see later).
4. Robert Kirkwood. (111)

III. George Kirkwood, (111)<sup>1</sup> the son of Robert Kirkwood, (11) was born in Abbeville County, South Carolina, on March 15, 1792.<sup>2</sup> He was reared on his father's plantation. On April 21, 1814, he married Jane Calhoun (see Calhoun family), daughter of Ezekiel and Margaret Calhoun of Abbeville. The couple moved to Lawrence County, Mississippi, in 1820 with Ezekiel Calhoun and settled on White Sand Creek. William Kirkwood, (111) George's brother lived nearby. In 1820 he had 480 acres and 11 slaves; George Kirkwood had two slaves. Robert Kirkwood, (111) another brother settled there in 1822. James Kirkwood, (11) an uncle, had settled at Natchez about 1795.

In 1839 George Kirkwood moved to present Tyler County, Texas, with his family and that of his son-in-law, Robert Cummins Fulgham. He was granted 640 acres in that year by the Republic of Texas. Later he acquired more land on Wolf Creek, near present Colmesneil and established a large plantation. When Tyler County was established on April 3, 1846, George Kirkwood, Jesse Fulgham, and others were named commissioners to select a county seat. He was a member of the first grand jury constituted and also a county commissioner. In the U.S. Census of 1850 for Tyler County, George Kirkwood had fifteen slaves and real estate worth \$5,000.<sup>3</sup> He and his wife, Jane Calhoun, were long remembered for their education and culture. Their home was one of singular elegance for such an early period in Southeast Texas. George Kirkwood owned and operated his own cotton gin and shipped his crops by steamboat down the Neches River to Galveston. He died on September 3, 1853.

<sup>1</sup> Named for his great uncle, George Bowie.

<sup>2</sup> Bible of George Kirkwood.

<sup>3</sup> He owned about 2,000 acres of land.



The children of George Kirkwood (iii) and his wife, Jane Calhoun were

1. Robert Kirkwood, (iv) born March 11, 1815.
2. Catharine M. Kirkwood, (iv) born November 11, 1818; married Ezekiel Taylor Fulgham (see Fulgham family).
3. Margaret Elizabeth Kirkwood, (iv) born December 6, 1820; married John Arnett. (Their son, George Kirkwood Arnett, was one of the two founders of Conroe, Texas).
4. Eleanor Madoriah Kirkwood, (iv) born February 6, 1823; married Robert Cummins Fulgham on March 8, 1838 (see Fulgham family sketch).
5. George W. Kirkwood, born March 27, 1831, married Susan Hanks, daughter of Wyatt Hanks.

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### THE TENTH GENERATION: MYRTIE GLADYS POINDEXTER (xa)

Myrtie Gladys Poindexter was born on June 10, 1895, at Woodville, Tyler County, Texas, and was named for her cousin, Myrtie Mainer Neff, wife of Pat M. Neff, governor of Texas. Her parents were Dr. John Reams Poindexter (viii) and Larissa Anna Powell. (xii) She was born in the office of her father on the corner northeast of the courthouse in a building no longer extant—formerly an old hotel. She moved with her parents to Colmesneil in the same county, and later, about 1897, to Lufkin in Angelina County. Thereafter, the family spent several years in Stephenville in Erath County and a year or two in Quanah in Hardeman County. In all these places J. R. Poindexter practiced his profession of dentistry and was a member of the school board. Myrtie Poindexter attended public schools in these places, as well as McIlhenny Academy at Stephenville.

In 1910 the family settled in Temple, Bell County, Texas. In the ensuing years Myrtie Poindexter attended Wedermeyer Academy, a private school. After graduating from that institution in 1914, she attended Mary Hardin Baylor College in Bel-



MYRTIE POINDEXTER LANDERS (Xa). (1895-).



ton, where she majored in violin, and Scott and White School of Nursing in Temple.

Myrtie Poindexter married John Henry Landers on September 2, 1919, in Temple. John Henry Landers was born on February 27, 1895, the son of William Russell Landers and his wife, Adella Alice Layne, at their house, "Washington Bower," at Lawrence Chapel, Williamson County, Texas. The paternal grandparents of J. H. Landers were John Randolph Landers (1843-1905), born at Landersville, Alabama, and a Confederate veteran, and Joannah Esther Chilcoat Landers, a descendant of an early Baltimore family of note. The Landers family originated in Granville County, North Carolina, and included John Landers (d. 1825), a veteran of the American Revolution from North Carolina (see History of the Landers Family by John P. Landers).

The maternal grandparents of J. H. Landers were Henry Inlo Layne (1832-1878), born in Pike County, Missouri, and his wife, Lucinda Lawrence (1838-1899), daughter of Adam Lawrence and Sarah Miller of Lawrence Chapel, Texas. (For a history of the Layne family, see *Descendants of John Layne*, by Ralph Lane, ed. J. P. Landers, 1965). Adam Lawrence (1799-1878), was a distinguished early Texas settler, revolutionary soldier, and Indian fighter who came to Texas in 1815. His wife was the daughter of Simon Miller (1780-1836) and his wife, Sarah Lucinda Rucker (1783-1851). Simon Miller came to Texas in 1821 as one of Stephen F. Austin's "Old Three Hundred" colonists. He was descended from several prominent Virginia families: Reade, Harris, Ligon, Hancock, and Garganey. His first Virginia ancestors, Edward Garganey and Captain Thomas Harris, came to Virginia in 1608 and 1611 respectively. He was several times a descendant of King Edward III of England and of other royal lines.

J. H. Landers was a member of First Company, Central Machine Gun Officers Training School, U.S. Army, at Camp Hancock, Georgia, during World War I.

After Mr. Landers' (rx) work carried the couple briefly to Paris, Texas (for about nine months), the couple returned to Temple and made their home there. They built a house on

North Main Street in 1929.

The couple lost a child prematurely in 1928. On May 9, 1931, Myrtie Poindexter Landers gave birth to a son, John Poindexter Landers, (x) at King's Daughters Hospital in Temple.

In 1933 the family moved to Lufkin, Angelina County, where J. H. Landers owned and operated three different furniture and appliance stores at various times. Mrs. Landers was the proprietress of an art and antique shop as a result of her interest in china and fine furniture. The couple were active in St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church at this period.

In August of 1939 the family moved to Houston, in Harris County and remained there until 1940, when they returned to Temple. In September of 1941 they purchased the Francis home at 409 North Fifth Street, where they still live (1975). J. H. Landers became advertising director of the *Temple Daily Telegram* and was elected state president of the Texas Advertising Managers Association in 1952, and member of the Public Library board in 1962.

Myrtie Poindexter Landers has always been active in church affairs, Episcopalian, and Catholic, after she entered that church in 1948. Besides her housekeeping abilities, she has displayed unusual talent in embroidery and the making of hooked rugs. As long as her sight permitted, she was an avid reader, not only of fiction, but also of theology and philosophy. For several years she was an active member of the National Catholic Community Service.

From early youth Mrs. Landers was distinguished for her personal beauty and her elegant but subdued dress. She has always demonstrated a signal fondness for children and animals as well as a self-sacrificing charity towards all. She died on October 29, 1977.

Myrtie Gladys Poindexter Landers(xa) and her husband, John Henry Landers, have one son,

1. John Poindexter Landers(xia) S.T.B., M.A., born May 9, 1931 at Temple, Bell County, Texas. (See later for biographical sketch).



# THE ELEVENTH GENERATION:

## JOHN POINDEXTER LANDERS (xia)

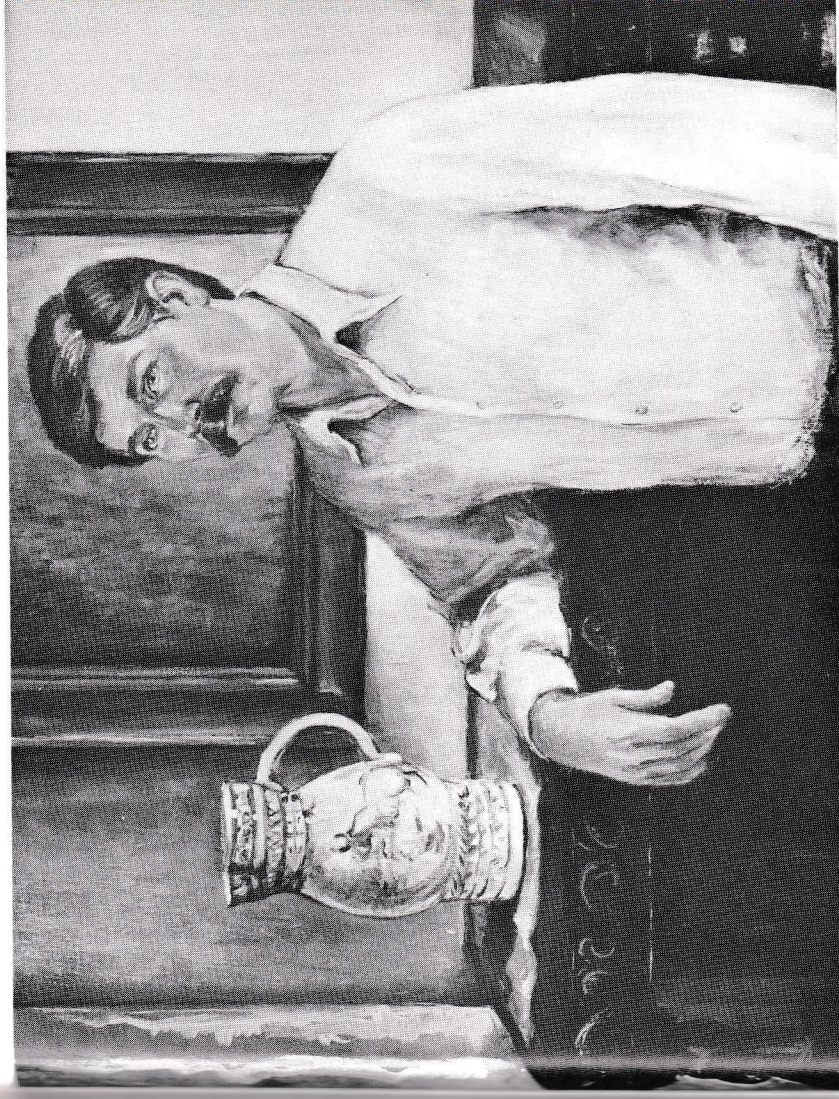
John Poindexter Landers, (xia) was born at Temple, Bell County, Texas, on May 9, 1931, the son of John Henry and Myrtie Poindexter Landers, (xa) John Henry Landers was formerly engaged in the furniture and decorating business; later he became an advertising executive for the *Temple Daily Telegram*. The families of both parents have been in Texas since Mexican days, his paternal ancestors having arrived as early as 1815.

John P. Landers attended public schools in Lufkin, Houston, and Temple, graduating from Temple High School in 1948. He was a recipient of the American Legion Award in Junior High School and was given the Rotary Award for scholarship and leadership upon his graduation from high school. He was editor of the Temple High School paper in 1947-48.

He entered St. Mary's Seminary at La Porte, Texas, in the fall of 1948, completing three years of college and philosophical work in that institution. In 1951 he was chosen by the Bishop of Austin to represent that diocese in Rome as a theological student at the North American College. He received the S.T.B. degree (baccalaureate in Sacred Theology) from the Pontifical Gregorian University at Rome in 1953. In the student life of the North American College Landers was appointed successively beadle and prefect of a group of students. At Rome he received tonsure and the minor orders of the Roman Catholic Church.

After travelling widely in Europe, Egypt, and the Near East, Mr. Landers returned to America in May of 1954, whereupon he entered the University of Texas as a graduate student. There he received the M.A. degree in classical languages in June of 1955. During the next year he was awarded the University of Texas Scholarship (granted each year for excellence in scholastic attainment) in order to pursue work towards the doctoral degree. In 1956 Landers entered the classics department of the University of Virginia, where he was likewise awarded the University scholarship.

In January of 1957 Mr. Landers became acting librarian of Temple Junior College. In that capacity he catalogued and estab-



JOHN POINDEXTER LANDERS (XL<sub>a</sub>), (1931-).



lished the library in the new college buildings. In the fall of 1957 he became instructor of English at the same college. During the following summer he did additional graduate work at Texas University. At various times during this period he did editorial work for the *Temple Daily Telegram*.

In the summer of 1958 Mr. Landers returned to Europe, visiting Italy, France, England, and the Channel Islands for purposes of travel and research. Soon thereafter he visited Mexico City for several weeks.

After another summer tour of Europe in 1960, Mr. Landers again enrolled in the graduate department of the University of Texas where he also became teaching assistant in Latin and Research Associate I in Texas history. In the fall of 1960 he became editorial assistant on the staff of the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*. During his occupancy of this position he compiled a documentary history of Texas from primary sources with a view to publishing the work eventually under the auspices of the Texas Historical Association.

In September of 1961 John Landers returned to the faculty of Temple Junior College, where he remained until 1963. In the summer of that year he returned to Europe for three months, attending lectures on 17th Century culture at Oxford University. He also did research in history and genealogy at Exeter College, Oxford, as well as at the British Museum and the Museum of the Société Jersiaise on the Island of Jersey. By this time he had completed all his required course work for the doctoral degree—more than ninety graduate hours.

In September of 1963 Mr. Landers became instructor of Latin at San Antonio College at San Antonio, Texas. In 1964 he was promoted to the rank of assistant professor at that institution, where he taught Greek and English as well as Latin.

John P. Landers has published several historical articles and a book of verse, entitled *Deja Vu and Other Poems* (1961). His historical articles include "The Origin of the Name Jersey" and "John Poingdestre," both published in the *Bulletin* of the Société Jersiaise in Jersey; "Adam Lawrence of New Year Creek," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 1964; "Valentine Burch" and "In the Vanguard of the Old Three Hundred," published in

*Tetana* in 1965 and 1966 respectively. Other articles and poems have appeared in such publications as *Texas Grand Lodge Magazine*, the Rotogravure Magazine of the *Houston Chronicle*; the *Texian*; the magazine of the Central Texas Area Museum, etc. In 1964 Landers edited a genealogy of the Layne family. Other genealogical articles have appeared in *The Burch Family*, by Marilu Burch Smallwood and in *Historical Southern Families*, vol. IV, by John B. Boddie.

Mr. Landers has been active in various patriotic and historical organizations. He is past state secretary and historian of the Sons of the Republic of Texas; past historian and gentleman of the Council of the Society of Colonial Wars in Texas. He was for several years a member of the Board of Trustees of the Central Texas Area Museum at Salado and was chairman of the Bell County Historical Survey Committee from 1962 to 1964. He was also a member of the Société Jersiaise and the Texas State Junior College Teachers Association as well as of the San Antonio Conservation Society. He was created an admiral in the Texas Navy by Governor Connally in 1963.

In the summer of 1965 Mr. Landers made a trip to Guanajuato, Mexico, Querétaro, and environs to study colonial Mexican architecture and art. In August of 1966 he visited friends in Boston and Cape Cod and toured New England.

In October of 1969 he resigned his position as associate professor of Latin at San Antonio College and accepted the post of director of the new state museum at Washington-on-the-Brazos, Washington County, Texas. During the succeeding months he acquired exhibit material for the museum by traveling throughout the state. With the assistance of William V. Mealy, the curator, who set up the exhibits, he prepared for the formal opening of the museum on March 2, 1970. He remained at the museum as director until June of 1971, when he resigned in order to have more time for historical research and the writing of poetry.

Since that time he has acted as restoration consultant for various historical groups and has written surveys and studies for the restoration of various historic buildings, e.g., St. Joseph's Church and Powhatan House in Galveston; the Giddings-Wilkin house in Brenham, and the John P. Coles house at Independence.



In addition to these public projects, he has purchased and partially restored several early edifices on his own account, e.g. Browning Plantation house at Chappell Hill, Texas (1856); the Martin-Cone house at Anderson (1838); the Gisell House Hotel at Navasota (1859); and the Chambers house in Galveston (1859). The project dearest to his heart, however, has always been the gradual restoration of his ancestral home, "Washington Bower" at Lawrence Chapel, Williamson County, Texas, built in 1853 by his great grandfather, Henry Inlo Layne on land owned by his ancestors Simon Miller and Adam Lawrence (whose daughter Lucinda married H. I. Layne) since 1838.

After living in Washington, Texas, Anderson and Galveston, he moved to Houston in September of 1972, where he has continued his writing and restoration work. He has amassed a collection of antiquities over the years consisting of American decorative arts (primarily furniture and paintings). Most of the pieces date from the 18th and early 19th Century Southern states although the collection includes significant New York pieces (three by Phyfe) and English medieval and Jacobean furniture and art as well as Spanish Colonial art and Egyptian and Graeco-Roman antiquities.

In 1973 eight pieces of his early Texas furniture and decorative arts were exhibited for a year at the Witte Memorial Museum in San Antonio at the first statewide exhibit of Texas furniture. They are pictured and described in the catalogue published for the occasion.

In September-October of 1971 he returned to Europe and spent two months in England, France, and the Channel Islands studying architecture and historical documents and acquiring antiques.

He made another trip to Europe in June-July of 1974 with Mrs. Merrick Phelps and W. V. Mealy, touring the north of England, Normandy, Provence, and Italy. (Both of these trips are more fully recorded elsewhere)

In 1974-1975 he has been engaged in the final compilation and editing of the history of the Poingdestre-Poindexter family, his maternal line. The book will be published with the financial assistance of R. Downs Poindexter, of Shreveport, Louisiana, a

cousin. Mr. Landers is also assisting in a survey of the remaining historic buildings of Houston under the auspices of the Harris County Historical Survey Committee.

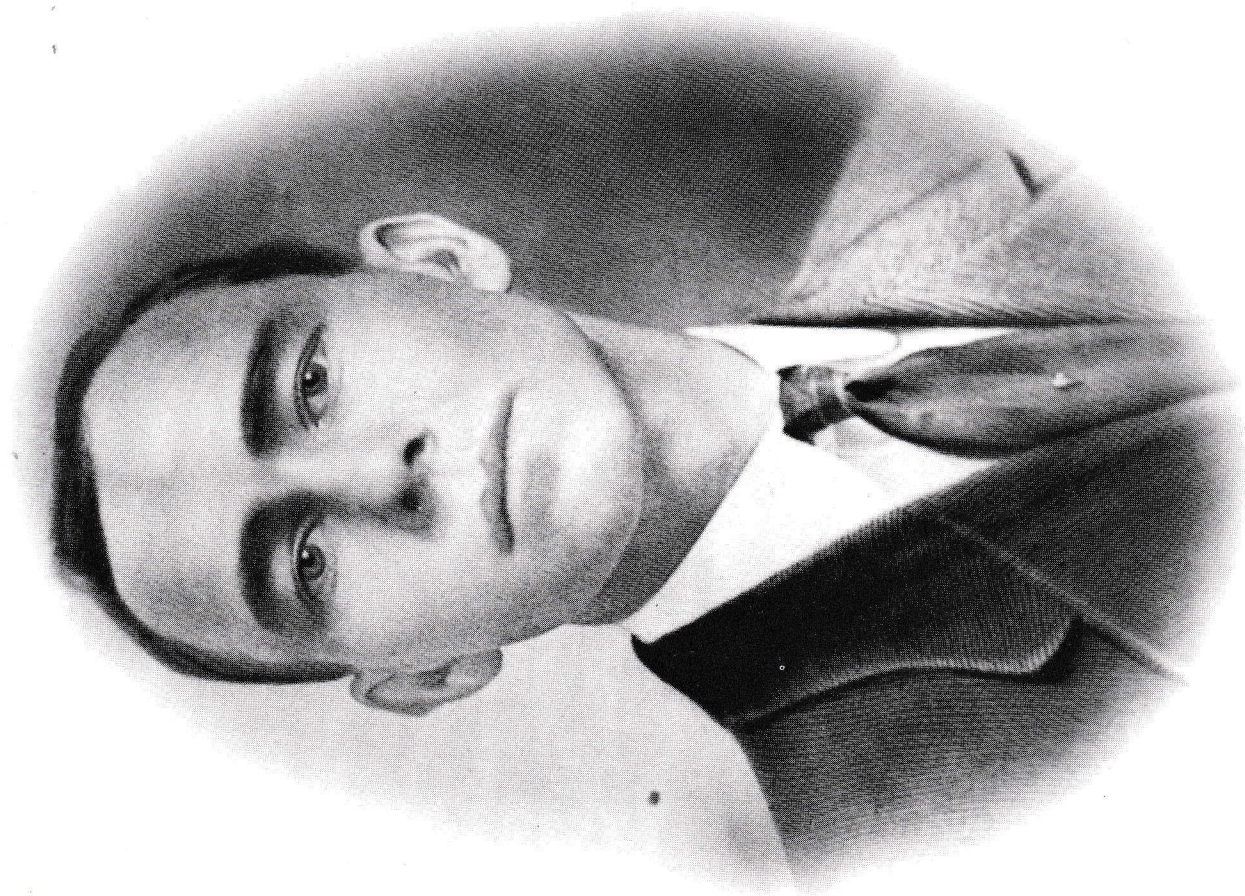
In April of 1975 he began teaching a series of courses on the history and characteristics of antiques for the Houston Creative Center.

THE NINTH GENERATION:  
ROBERT NEWTON POINDEXTER (ixb)  
by Robert Downs Poindexter (xb)

Robert Newton Poindexter (ixb) was born on December 19, 1885, at Peach Tree Village, near present Chester, Tyler County, Texas, in the old double-log house built about 1835 by his great-grandfather, Peter Cauble.<sup>3</sup> Robert Newton Poindexter was the son of Robert Lynn Poindexter<sup>7</sup> and his wife, Angeline Burch.<sup>8</sup> In 1897 he moved with his parents to a farm near Lufkin in Angelina County, where he was reared and obtained further schooling, in addition to his early instruction at the "Crow School" in Peach Tree Village. His formal schooling consisted of three years made up of two six-week periods during his childhood.

Robert Newton Poindexter became apprenticed as a machinist at Kavanaugh Iron Works (now Lufkin Foundry and Machine Company). He worked four years and became a journeyman machinist. (A full machinist worked ten hours a day for \$1 a day pay at this time). In 1905 he moved to Mansfield, Louisiana, where he was employed by the De Soto Foundry and Machine Company. During the money panic of 1907 there was an absence of actual currency, and paper chits were used in place of money, in Mansfield. As well as most of the U.S.A. In 1908 he was employed as a mechanic at Oil City, Louisiana, for the Producers Oil Company (later Texas Company) in the Caddo Lake Field. In 1910 he began to work as a machinist for the Pelican Well Tool and Supply Company of Vivian, Louisiana.





ROBERT NEWTON POINDEXTER LXb), (1885-1941).

He founded the Gilliam Well Tool and Supply Company at Gilliam, Louisiana, in 1918 after the discovery of the Pine Island Oil field in north Caddo Parish, Louisiana, centered around Gilliam, Louisiana. In 1920 he moved the main office of the company to Shreveport and changed the name to Superior Iron Work Inc. He established branch machine and forge shops in the oil fields surrounding Shreveport as they were discovered. These locations were: Eldorado, Arkansas, in 1920-1927; Louann, Arkansas, 1921; Smackover, Arkansas in 1923; Cotton Valley, Louisiana, 1927; Wichita Falls, Texas, 1925; Wink, Texas, 1927; Homer, Louisiana, 1926; Haynsville, Louisiana, 1929; Longview, Texas (East Texas Field) 1932; Overton, Texas, 1933; Houma, Louisiana, 1935; Rodessa, Louisiana, 1935; Magnolia, Arkansas, 1937; Houston, 1937; Logansport, Louisiana, 1939. During the same period Newt travelled far and wide over the oil area of the southwest, calling on customers and old friends in the oil industry and striving to enlarge his business. He was a friendly, good natured, lovable man who never had an enemy in the world and who was well known throughout the oil industry. In the late 1930's the chief executives of most of the large domestic oil companies who officed in New York City had worked in the north Louisiana oil fields between 1915 and 1920 and were friends of Newt Poindexter. In August 1941 he died of recurrent heart problems and his funeral was attended by hundreds of local friends and oil friends from across the country.

Robert Newton Poindexter was a member of the Roman Catholic Church. He was buried in Forest Park Cemetery after funeral rites at St. John's Catholic Church.

On June 29, 1913, he had married Gladys Zuleika Downs of Lufkin. Gladys Downs Poindexter was the daughter of John L. Downs and his wife, Georgia Baldwin, of Lufkin, Texas. Georgia Baldwin was the daughter of George W. Baldwin and Fannie Knight of Christian County, Kentucky, who came to Austin, County, Texas in 1882. Gladys Downs Poindexter, born April 21, 1892, in Ardmore, Indian Territory, spent her youth in Lufkin. In addition to the rearing of her family, Mrs. Poindexter was active in many social, patriotic, and religious organizations, among others, the Daughters of the American Revolution (as past regent), United Daughters of the Confederacy, Wom-



an's Department Club of Shreveport, the Southern Literary Club, the Marquette Reading Club, the Orphanage Guild and the Queen's Workers, as well as St. Pius X Roman Catholic Church. For the last 27 years of her life, she served as board chairman of her husband's firm. She died on December 3, 1968. She was buried next to her husband.

The children of Robert Newton Poindexter (ixb) and his wife Gladys Zuleika Downs are

1. Robert Downs Poindexter (xb) born November 10, 1915; married Mary Alice Pendleton. Child:
  - a. Priscilla Louise Poindexter, (xib) born August 4, 1940 (for this line, see later).
2. Tom Cleary Poindexter (xb) born August 8, 1917 in Vivian, Louisiana. He attended St. Mary's Convent, Sacred Heart Convent, and St. John's High School in Shreveport, Louisiana. He served in the United States Army from 1941 until 1945, spending two years in Africa and two years in Italy before his discharge. He then joined his brother in the Superior Iron Works and Supply Co., where he has worked in an executive capacity until present. He married Nola Terry Gray on October 29, 1955; children:
  - a. Mary Gladys Poindexter, (xib) born August 13, 1957.
  - b. Thomas Cleary Poindexter, (xib) born November 25, 1958.
  - c. Robert John Poindexter, (xib) born November 30, 1959.
  - d. Susan Ann Poindexter, (xib) born February 13, 1961.
  - e. Michael Gray Poindexter, (xib) born April 10, 1962. Deceased 1974.
  - f. Margaret Patricia Poindexter, (xib) born January 23, 1967.

#### GLADYS ZULEIKA DOWNS POINDEXTER

by Robert Downs Poindexter (xb)

Gladys Zuleika Downs, the wife of Robert Newton Poindexter and mother of Robert Downs and Tom Cleary Poindexter, was the oldest of seven children born to John Lawrence Downs, who was born 1870 in West Memphis, Arkansas, died in 1945 in Shreveport, La., and Georgia Ann Baldwin Downs, born in 1869 in Christian County, Ky., died in 1957 in Shreveport, La. They were married in Dallas, Texas March 14, 1891. John L. Downs was a railroad man and they lived in Dallas, Texas, Ardmore Indian Territory, Corsicana, Texas, Haslam, Texas and Tenaha, Texas. They both are buried in Restland Cemetery, Tenaha, Texas.

1. Gladys Zuleika Downs, born April 21, 1892.
2. Willie B. Downs, born December 15, 1893.
3. Eugenia Downs, born November 20, 1896.
4. Julia Frances Downs, born April 19, 1898.
5. John Lawrence Downs, Jr., born February 24, 1901.
6. Patricia Louise Downs, born May 16, 1915.  
(A seventh child, a boy, died in infancy)



GLADYS ZULEIKA DOWNS POINDEXTER (1892-1968).

Gladys Z. Downs traced her family back to the 17th Century on her mother's side. Her mother, Georgia Ann Baldwin Downs (1869-1960), had two brothers (Thomas B. and Lee Joseph) and two sisters (Willie Frances and Cammie), all born to



George Washington Baldwin (1837-1917) and Frances Ann Knight Bailey (1839-1889). G. W. Baldwin's brothers were William Edward, Thomas, and Frank; his sisters were Mollie (Mrs. Jim Lands), Mrs. Duke Judson, and Jennie; his parents were William Bracket Baldwin (1808-1889) and Maria Pettus Baldwin (1811-1836). Two of Gladys Downs Poindexter's great-uncles served in the Confederate Army: William Edward Baldwin was in Company B, 23rd Virginia Infantry and was paroled after the War; his brother Thomas was killed during a truce on Christmas Day, on the lawn of the Pittsburg, Virginia, court house when he was struck by a snowball with a rock in it.

Nothing further on the Baldwin line exists in the family records or traditions; but Gladys Downs Poindexter can trace her descent four more generations through her great-grandmother, Maria Pettus Baldwin, daughter of Thomas Pettus (1779-1812) and Elinor Smith McGehee Pettus (1812) date of birth unknown.

Elinor McGehee's parents were Lieutenant William McGehee (1740-1806) and Sarah Walker Harris (no dates). William McGehee was born in King William County, Virginia, but lived in Prince Edward County, Virginia, during the American Revolution, and served as a first lieutenant in the Continental Army from that county. After the death of his first wife, a Miss Forrest, he re-married a widow, Mrs. Sarah Walker Harris, from which union Gladys Downs Poindexter is descended.

William McGehee was the son of Jacob McGehee (1707-1783) and Elinor de Jarnette (1720-1775), both of whose parents, Jean and Marie, came to Gloucester County, Virginia, from France in 1699.

The Downs line can be traced only as far as Gladys Poindexter's paternal grandparents, Daniel, born in 1818, and Julia O'Loughlin Downs, both natives of Ireland. Daniel Downs was a fugitive from Ireland during an I.R.A. rebellion and fled to the United States where he acquired citizenship by joining the Union Army where he served from 1862-65 as a private in Co. A, 26 Regiment Military Infantry of Maine. Later he served as Chief of Police of Memphis, Tennessee, where he died in 1874. His wife died in Edmonton, Tennessee.

## THE TENTH GENERATION:

by Robert Downs Poindexter (xb)

Robert Downs Poindexter, (xb) the son of Robert Newton Poindexter (ixb) and his wife, Gladys Zuleika Downs, was born on November 10, 1915, at Vivian, Louisiana. He moved to Shreveport with his parents in 1920 and attended school at St. Mary's Convent and St. John's High School (now Jesuit). After studying at Oklahoma University in 1934, 1936, and 1937; at Centenary College in Shreveport in 1935 and 1936; and at the University of Houston in 1938; he received the Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Louisiana State University in 1941. On September 3, 1937, he married Mary Alice Pendleton of Columbia, South Carolina.

After being employed by his father in the oil well supply business, Downs Poindexter became in 1941 secretary-treasurer of Superior Iron Works and Supply Company, Inc., of Shreveport, founded and owned by his father. Upon his father's death later in 1941, he became president and chief executive officer of the firm. In 1962, he purchased the Pelican Supply Company and became chairman of the board and chief executive officer of that firm as well as of the Paramount Pipe and Machinery Company and continues in those offices at the present time. In 1953, he became president and partner with his brother Tom C. Poindexter of the Excelsior Company of Shreveport; in 1956, he organized the Excello Land and Improvement Company of Shreveport; and in 1957, he organized Apex Properties, Inc., also of Shreveport, and became its first president. In 1960, he organized the Acme Equipment and Leasing Corporation and the Salem Chemical Company, Inc. of Shreveport. In 1975, he organized Tension Stringing Equipment, Inc., and became its chairman of the board. In 1976 he organized Phoenix Industries a wholly owned subsidiary of Superior. This company engages in all steel construction and engineering. In addition to the ownership and operation of these firms, Mr. Poindexter has established subsidiary branches of all of them in the leading cities of several states.

Besides the prominence that he achieved in the industrial and





FAMILY GROUP, SUMMER OF 1940, BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: JOHN LAWRENCE DOWNS, ROBERT DOWNS POINDEXTER, ROBERT NEWTON POINDEXTER; FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: GEORGIA BALDWIN DOWNS, MARY PENDLETON POINDEXTER, GLADYS DOWNS POINDEXTER; INFANT PRISCILLA LOUISE POINDEXTER.



ROBERT DOWNS POINDEXTER (Xb), (1915-).



commercial sphere which has earned various commendations and distinctions, such as a biographical sketch in *Who's Who in America*, Robert Downs Poindexter has been active in the fields of public service and civic activity. He has served as past division vice president of the National Association of Manufacturers, as member of the board of directors of the United Fund of Caddo-Bossier Parishes, as chairman of the board of the Business-Industry Political Action Committee, and as associate director of the National Associated Boys Club of America for the Shreveport area.

Since 1966, Mr. Poindexter has served on the board of directors of Junior Achievement, A.R.C., and the Public Solicitation Revue Council and the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana. He was elected board member of the Louisiana Political Action Committee in 1976. He is a member of the American Petroleum Institute, the Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, Delta Upsilon, social fraternity, and Delta Sigma Pi, honorary business administration fraternity. He is also a member of the Shreveport Country Club, the Shreveport Club, and the Petroleum Club of Shreveport and Dallas. He is currently assisting in the publication of the history of the Poindexter family, and has written the present chapter concerning his branch of the family. Downs Poindexter is known nationally and internationally in the oil business and is one of the most distinguished businessmen in the South.

Mr. Poindexter is a life-long member of the Roman Catholic Church and a communicant at St. Pius X Church in Shreveport. His home is at 4805 Tacoma Drive. He and his wife have one daughter.

1. Priscilla Louise Poindexter, (xib) born on August 4, 1940 at Shreveport, Louisiana. On May 13, 1960, she married Harry J. Chris, of Jeanerette, Louisiana. Their children are
  - a. Mary Elizabeth Chris, (xib) born February 20, 1962, in Shreveport, Louisiana.
  - b. Robert Mark Chris, (xib) born April 1, 1963, in Shreveport, Louisiana.

## MARY ALICE PENDLETON POINDEXTER

by Robert Downs Poindexter(xb)

Mary Alice Pendleton, wife of Robert Downs Poindexter and mother of Priscilla Louise Poindexter, was the younger of two daughters born to Clarke Henderson Pendleton (1888-1939) and Cornelia Earnhardt Pendleton (1891-1976).

Mary Alice Pendleton was born in Alexandria, Virginia, on March 2, 1914, where she lived until she was eleven years old. Her father, Clarke, worked for the Inter-State Commerce Commission and at that time was transferred to Shreveport, Louisiana, as an Inspector of Railroads for that region. She attended Alexander Elementary School, graduated from Byrd High School. She entered the University of Arkansas where she was elected Freshman Queen. In 1935 her father was transferred by the Department of Commerce to Columbia, South Carolina, and she transferred to the University of South Carolina, which she attended for one year.

In September 1937 she was married to Robert Downs Poindexter in Monck's Corner, South Carolina by a Justice of the Peace. She lived at home until Easter week of the following year when she met her husband in Shreveport, Louisiana and there had their marriage solemnized at St. John Berckmans Catholic Church. The couple then moved to Norman, Oklahoma, and lived there until the completion of the school year at the University of Oklahoma. The couple moved to Magnolia, Arkansas in the summer of 1938, where Downs started at a branch of his father's business, Superior Iron Works and Supply Co. At the end of this summer, 1938, Downs was transferred to Houston, Texas to start a branch of the business there. After successfully starting the business Downs decided with his father's consent to go back to school to learn business administration. Mary Alice also entered Louisiana State University School of Journalism with him in fall of 1939, and graduated from that school in June 1940. They had a daughter born in August of that same year. Downs finished his degree in 1941 and they moved to Shreveport, Louisiana, where they have resided until the present.





MARY ELIZABETH CHRIS (XLB), (1962-); ROBERT MARK CHRIS (XLB), (1963-); AND PRISCILLA POINDEXTER SMITH (XIB), (1940-).



MARY ALICE PENDLETON POINDEXTER (1914-).



Mary Alice Pendleton traces her ancestry in this country back to the early 18th Century on her paternal grandmother's side. Her father, Clarke Pendleton was the son of Richard Mason Pendleton (1863-1907) and Alice Maria Wright (1857-1932), who had been married in Salisbury, North Carolina, in 1884. Alice Wright's parents, William Alexander Wright (1823-1875) and Jane Sophia Brown (1830-1906) had married in 1852 and recorded their marriage bond in the Cabarras County Court House, Concord, North Carolina. Jane Sophia Brown was the daughter of Michael (1779-1845) and Jane Morgan Phillipe Brown (1786-1863) who had been married on June 27, 1805; their marriage is recorded in the Rowan County Court House, Salisbury, North Carolina. Michael's father, John (b. ca. 1754), was called "Continental John" Brown because of his Revolutionary War record. His 1776 marriage to Catherine Miller (b. ca. 1758), daughter of Wendell Miller, is recorded in J. G. Arndt's diary in the Lenoir Rhyne College Library, Hickory, North Carolina. "Continental John's" parents were German immigrants, Michael and Margareta Braun. Michael (b. ca. 1721) landed in Philadelphia in 1737; his name is on the original list of 140 passengers, all younger than 20 years of age, now in the State Library, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Michael Braun first purchased land in Rowan County, North Carolina, in 1758; in 1776, he built the Old Stone House which still stands four miles east of Salisbury. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. Michael's wife Margareta is buried in the cemetery adjoining the house; her tombstone gives her exact birth and death dates, May 20, 1734-July 20, 1771.



ROBERT JOHN POINDEXTER; THOMAS CLARY POINDEXTER; MARGARET PATRICIA POINDEXTER; NOLA GRAY POINDEXTER; THOMAS CLARY POINDEXTER, JR.; SUSAN ANNE POINDEXTER; MARY GLADYS POINDEXTER.